



△ Korean Working Class Hastens Forward Advance
△ By the Nation's Concerted Efforts

Korea

Today

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Juche 91 (2002)



This year's Day of the Sun is unusually important to the Korean People.

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The cement produced at the Sunchon Cement Complex enjoys strong demand both at home and abroad, as it is of good quality and is produced in large quantities.



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The doctors of the Department of Neurosurgery at the Kim Man Yu Hospital have produced many research papers, making a great contribution to efforts to improve the health of the people.

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Front Cover: Inquiry

At the Ranam Coal Mining
Machine Complex

The workers and technicians
at the complex have displayed
their creativity in making
numerous innovations in the
production of new equipment.

Photo by Choe Chol

Back Cover: Pyongyang on the Day of the Sun

Photo by Sok Won Chol

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Korean Working Class Hastens Forward Advance

May the 1st is the international holiday of the working class of the world.

Over centuries the working class has steadily followed the course of struggle to shatter the chains of exploitation and oppression. Its history is that of a struggle for independence against imperialism.

The common desire of the world revolutionary people on the occasion of the May Day is to make the 21st century an era of independence and peace.

The Korean workers extend strong support and solidarity to the revolutionary people around the world who are continuing their fight for independence against imperialism.

The Korean revolution, from the outset, has been one of the main battlegrounds of the fierce anti-imperialist struggle. The Korean people have been in direct confrontation with the imperialist powers at all times in their efforts for independence and socialism. In this supremely difficult task they worked a miracle by winning every battle they have fought. The US imperialists intensified their moves against socialism, the DPRK in particular, during the 1990s, and the international situation changed rapidly. Such an environment, however, did not affect the Korean workers in their struggle to defend the sovereignty of their nation and their revolutionary achievements and develop people-centered socialism.

Their staunch belief in the red flag was fully demonstrated in their support of the Workers' Party of Korea's policy of putting the army at the heart of all the nation's affairs during the period of the "Arduous March". In cooperation with the Korean People's Army, which is the main force of the revolution, the people, united more firmly than ever behind the supreme leader of the nation, won a brilliant victory in a confrontation in which their destiny was at stake—being colonial slaves or an independent people. Thus they defended their own ideological and spiritual mainstay and social system.

The mettle the Korean workers are displaying under the red flag in their courageous struggle has become more conspicuous in the historic advance they are making in the 21st century.

The Bush administration has been spreading clouds of aggression in different parts of the world, running contrary to the aspiration of the international community for peace and stability in the 21st century. In the Bush administration's view, the DPRK, which is steadfastly making a forward advance under the banner of independence, is the "enemy of freedom" and their "No.1 enemy". Their unceasing rhetoric about "the threat from north Korea" is driving the situation on the Korean peninsula to the extreme.

The Korean people, nevertheless, are not daunted in the least, because their attitude is to answer a strong arm with a stronger arm. They believe that the only way to respond to any strike by the enemy is to retaliate with a thousand-time stronger blow. This is a firm conviction the Koreans acquired through their protracted and arduous struggle.

They are filled with the courage to fight it out with those who attempt to harm their sovereignty and prestige, and are determined to eradicate the root cause of war from the Korean peninsula for good if the enemy dares to make an attack. No force can shake their resolution to safeguard their independent rights.

Ultimate victory is in store for those that stick to working-class principles. To observe that principle strictly in all that one does is an important means of frustrating the enemy's attempt to provoke internal disintegration. The Korean working class will not give up revolutionary principle of socialism which they have maintained for dozens of years simply because of a change of century and situation.

Their continuous creation of a glorious epic in the vanguard of the times up to now would have been inconceivable without the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea. Their spirit, courage and willpower are qualities the Party inculcated in them. No one should doubt that they will defend and uphold their own ideals, political system and revolutionary mode and thus build a strong and prosperous country of a Korean style on their land through their own efforts.

Kim Song Il

Optimism of Korean Working Class

May Day is an international holiday demonstrating the unity and solidarity of the working class the world over.

On this occasion the workers of Korea extend their greetings to the workers of the world who are fighting for the cause of their class, and to the world progressives.

The cause of the working class is sacred, for its aim is to build a society where the independence of the popular masses is realized.

At present, all the Korean workers are out as one to build a strong and prosperous nation.

Of course, the workers' dining tables are not yet loaded with enough food for them to loosen their belts, and the path ahead is sure to be beset by difficulties and trying ordeals.

However, the Korean workers are confident that they will ultimately triumph in their efforts to build a powerful nation.

They have built socialism and defended it at every stage of its development, optimistic about their future.

That optimism helped them to repel the armed invasion of the US-led imperialist allied forces and safeguard the security of the country and the sovereignty of the nation during the Fatherland Liberation War.

They called on the same spirit to rebuild their country in the post-war period, effecting the socialist industrialization of the country. That is why the Korean people value socialism centered on the popular masses, the real guarantee of their happiness, as much as they do their own lives, and are now advancing dynamically with a firm confidence in its validity and its future prospects.

The "Arduous March" of the 1990s was a period of harsh trials when they had to shed tears of

blood.

Almost collapsing with hunger beside their operating machines, workers shouted, "Push ahead through the thorny path in high spirits!"

Why did they shout like that?

Recalling those days, a leading official at the Ranam Coal Mining Machine Complex said, "We have creditably surmounted one harsh trial after another.

"This arises from our steady nerve to see who will win: the imperialists, who are resorting to all sorts of machinations to isolate and stifle our country, regarding it as a thorn in their flesh, or our country, which is defending the socialist system? If we had not been confident in victory, we would not have held our nerve."

That's right.

An example of the workers' spirit was provided when the workers at the forge shop in charge of basic processing materials were refashioning the heating furnace to use waste tar as substitute fuel.

They had to demolish the existing furnace and build a new one. In addition, they had to make the equipment for jetting fuel and blowing air. They built the furnace wall layer by layer, working their fingers to the bone.

Exhausted, all of them finally slumped down on the floor.

At that moment, the work-team leader said, "We must not throw ourselves down like this, We have some breathing space. If we yield to these difficulties, the Ranam Coal Mining Machine Complex cannot rise up and the advance of our country will be greatly retarded. Brace yourselves up!"

In response to his call, everyone lifted themselves. The heating furnace was rebuilt and production stepped up.



Such was their determination, they did not stop the operation of their machines, even achieving the miraculous success of building two new factories.

Their spirit and way of struggle have become a fine example of our era, and the Torch of Ranam, the first of the new century, is now spreading all over the country like a prairie fire.

The Ranam workers came to hold the belief that if they walked a thousand ri, surmounting all difficulties, they would become able to enjoy boundless happiness.

This optimistic spirit of the Korean workers is based on their unshakeable conviction that the victory of socialism lies in following leader Kim Jong Il.

As in the past, so in the future, too, they will make every possible effort to strengthen unity and international solidarity with the workers of all countries and the progressive people of the world and make a positive contribution to the struggle for global independence.

Ri Myong Ho,
*department director, Central
Committee of the General Fed-
eration of Trade Unions of Korea*

Quotes from Kim Jong Il

"A white gem does not lose its shine even if it is broken to pieces, green pine does not change its colour even in snow, and bamboo does not discard its straightness in the fire."

"Man's conscience can never be readily betrayed, nor can it be easily won."

"The grand and beautiful edifices are all the products of labour."

Putting Forward the Workers as Pillars of the Country

Saying that "Your Factory Is Powerful"

One day in April last year leader Kim Jong Il gave on-the-spot guidance to the Ryongsong Machine Complex.

Looking back upon the course of development of the complex with deep emotion, he said that this factory had become a leading large-machine production center, a mother factory of the nation, thanks to the guidance of President Kim Il Sung.

The leader proceeded to visit several workshops. Looking at large-sized machine tools in full operation for increased production, he expressed his satisfaction, saying, "The workers here are working miracles and are making innovations day in, day out, in order to play their part in the building of a strong and prosperous nation."

He spoke highly of the workers at the complex, saying, "I hear that the Ryongsong Machine Complex can manufacture anything if it is resolved to. The workers here are really admirable."

It was a source of great pride that Korea had such a large-sized machine-producing factory, he added.

That day he acquainted himself in detail with the equipment for the large-sized compressor manufactured at the complex and put great confidence in the work

ers there, saying that they had real ability and that the complex could be said to be the face of the country's industry.

He inspired the workers to fully display the same fighting spirit their predecessors showed in the difficult post-war days when they manufactured an 8-meter turning lathe and a 3,000-ton press practically empty-handed.

In the Spirit of Self-Reliance

In winter four years ago, leader Kim Jong Il, who was on a visit to Jagang Province to provide on-the-spot guidance, went to a factory.

With a bright smile on his face all the time, he made a tour of the production sites resounding with the buzzing sound of the machines.

Through the reliable appearance of the workers he came to appreciate the efforts they had made to overcome the difficulties of the "Arduous March". Then he moved on and then halted in front of a machine. He told one of the accompanying officials of the factory that it was the first time he had seen such a machine and asked him where it had been obtained.

Informed that the factory had manufactured it by its own efforts, he expressed satisfaction over again, saying, "You say you've manufactured this machine by your own efforts. That's wonderful!" Addressing

the officials, he went on to say, "How good self-reliance is! Look at this. You've done a really praiseworthy thing."

Impressed by the machine produced by the factory workforce, he praised them highly, saying, "The workers at this factory have a tradition of unconditionally carrying out any task if the Party assigns it to them." He then posed for a photograph with them, saying, "The workers here are commendable ones who have put out products on their own, products whose manufacture was formerly regarded as impossible in our country."

Creator of Socialist Culture

Leader Kim Jong Il went through the gate of an enterprise to provide on-the-spot guidance.

The neatly arranged buildings and the trees lining the sides of the road in the factory compound gave the area the appearance of a park.

He affectionately shook hands with the officials of the enterprise one by one and said that the compound had been impressively developed by planting many trees and methodically readjusting the surrounding area. He then acquainted himself in detail with the living conditions of the workers.

Having entered the production area, he saw the blooming mill, the electric furnace and some of the materials intended to educate and motivate the employees. He

expressed great satisfaction over the fact that the enterprise had done a great deal of work to establish cultured ways in both production and life. He praised the officials and workers, saying, "You have built up the production site so splendidly that I don't feel I am visiting a steel plant. How wonderful!"

Inspecting the machines which were standing in rows as neatly as the products on display in the exhibition hall, he said that only when production was arranged as nicely as in this enterprise, was it worthwhile to meet the workers.

That day he said that socialist culture should be created among the workers.

By Becoming Real Father

Leader Kim Jong Il, on a visit to the Amnokgang Tyre Factory to provide on-the-spot guidance, dropped in at the production site first.

While passing by a machine, he watched its two operators at work for a while and said that they were operating their machine very skillfully.

An official told him that they were a couple.

Hearing this, he was much pleased and approached them, saying, "Is that so? That's a really good thing." He then affectionately asked the woman operator how old she was, how many children she had, and how the couple were getting along.

Deeply moved, as if she were taken into the warm embrace of her father, she replied to his questions.

Patting her on the shoulder, he told the couple in a tone full of trust, "It's great that a couple are operating a machine together. I want you to work even harder."

Looking up to leader Kim Jong Il, who wished them happiness in the future though he was very busy providing on-the-spot guidance, they made a deep bow to him, reflecting their gratitude. Acknowledging their bows, he wished them a happy future, once again encouraging them to work harder.

Pak Chang Ho

Books and Poems Published

On the occasion of the birthday of leader Kim Jong Il, books titled *In the Country of Leader Kim Jong Il*, *Land of the Brilliant Star* and *Korea Shines Guided by Great Man* were published in Syria, Egypt and Lebanon.

In the Country of Leader Kim Jong Il, written by Doctor Riyad Suleiman Iwad, member of the Political Bureau of the Socialist Unionist Party of Syria, has chapters titled "Can There Be an Idea Greater than This", "The Country Where the Sun of the 21st Century Rose" and "Deepest Respect for Comrade Kim Jong Il", praising the wise leadership of Kim Jong Il and his brilliant feats.

Ehiya Zakaria Hairia, secretary general of the Arab Art, Culture and Information Association of Egypt, in his book *Land of the Brilliant Star*, includes chapters titled "Glorious Traces of the Brilliant Commander", "Zenith of Affection and Loyalty", "World's Treasure House, Symbol of Friendship and Land of Excellent Arts". In them he says that the development of a country and a nation is a product of ceaseless thinking and creative efforts, adding that the achievements made in the DPRK are attributable to the seasoned guidance of leader Kim Jong Il.

Hairia stresses that under the leadership of Kim Jong Il Korea will undoubtedly be reunified in the near future and display the might of a powerful nation.

Korea Shines Guided by Great Man, written by Zaher Al Khatib, general secretary of the Lebanese Federation of Workers, includes chapters titled "Leader and Nation", "The Workers' Party of Korea Is Called the Mother Party", "Leap Forward to a Powerful Nation" and "Lodestar of

Korea's Reunification".

It cites a number of facts in its impressive account of the Korean leader's revolutionary exploits.

Paean to the Sun of the 21st Century, a collection of poems, and *Looking up to the Sun*, a collection of song lyrics, were written by Takashi Nata, representative of the Japanese Ehime Center for the Study of Modern Korean Affairs, and Noboru Kameda, representative of the Society of Japan-Korea Culture.

Paean to the Sun of the 21st Century carries a photo of leader Kim Jong Il on its front cover. Consisting of seven chapters, it contains 60 poems in all.

Looking up to the Sun contains the words of 60 songs expressing the boundless longing for President Kim Il Sung, the wish for Kim Jong Il's good health and happiness, his greatness as a man, the Korean people's intense loyalty to him, the might of Korean-style socialism, the cherished desire for Korea's reunification, DPRK-Japan friendship and solidarity with the people of the world.

Alexander Sergeyevich Shuteninkov, in a poem titled *Lake of Glory*, tells in an excited tone of the Russian people's warm welcome and reverence for Kim Jong Il as he passed Lake Baikal, a great natural lake in Siberia, during his recent visit to Russia.

Deye Pak Sharma of Nepal in a poem titled *Leader Kim Jong Il*, praises the Korean leader as the bright sun in the sky. The poem says that Kim Jong Il represents the happiness of humankind and the beautiful future of the world and has brought the dawn of a new era of hope and optimism to humankind, glorifying history with his matchless courage.

Chief Engineer on the Shop Floor

When I entered the office of Kim Ha Song at the East Pyongyang Thermal Power Station, he was not there. I could only hear of the ringing of the phones on the table.

An official in the office suggested that I go to the shop floor to meet him. His suggestion proved right. I found Kim, the chief engineer of the plant, at the generating area.

He was guiding a meeting at the time, and the officials, including the deputy chief engineer in charge of production, workshop and workteam leaders, and the ordinary workers, were taking part.

They were discussing on problems related to increasing the steam generation capacity of the boiler No-3. Producing good ideas, the animated discussion continued. The chief engineer would write notes in his pocket book while occasionally nodding.

His conclusion was quite simple.

Steps were taken to decrease the quantity of the cold air hindering the burning in the firebox and ensure stability in burning powdered coal.

He allotted a portion of the work to the officials of the technology section and the technicians at the workshop, telling them to carry out the task through cooperation. After that, he went to the turbine workshop to inquire about the result of tests on a new technological innovation.

The workers recognized him from a distance and ran to meet him.

"We were completely successful."

"It is excellent. Even at a low frequency, the turbine generates 55,000 kw," said the workers.

A look of relief appeared on Kim's face. Looking at the scene



with me, Han Chun Mu, an engineer responsible for technology development, told me more about Kim.

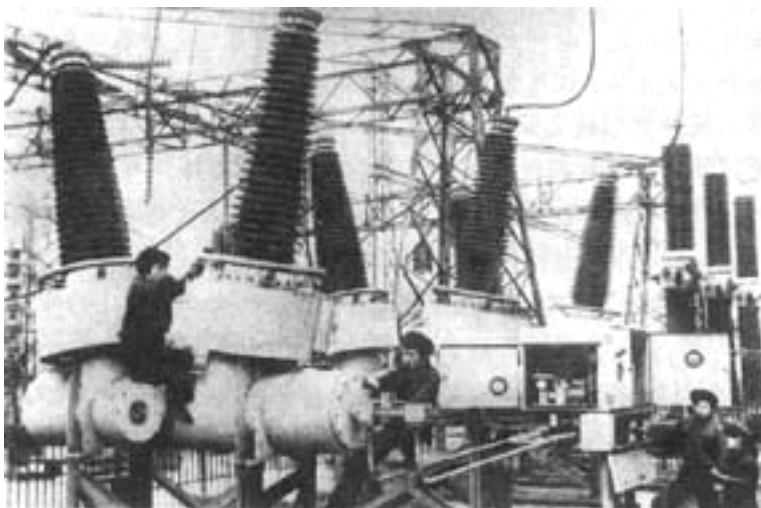
Kim has held the position of chief engineer since the power station started operations ten years ago.

In the severe period during which the country was forced to endure unprecedented hardships, he regarded technological innovation as the lifeline of the power station, and he spent as much time as possible with the workers.

Among them, he always listened to their ideas and gave them great encouragement.

During those times, a number of technical innovations and creative ideas were introduced into the power generation processes. Examples include the establishment of a stable coal delivery system through the introduction of a new conveyor operation method, the introduction of a wet dust-collector operated by water pressure which ensures nearly 100% efficiency in dust-collection, computerization of the electric supply system, and manufacturing a new meter which can analyze the water hardness in 5 minutes at any time and in any place, a process which previously took two hours.

Kim Ha Song says, "The power and the creativity of the masses are limitless. When we advance relying on their power, we can surely build a powerful nation." □



Workers at the East Pyongyang Thermal Power Station regularly inspect facilities to ensure stable power production.

Famous Cement Production Centre

The Sunchon Cement Complex in South Phyongan Province is a leading cement production center in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Construction of the complex began in the early 1970s and cement began to be produced in the mid-1970s with the commissioning of cement kiln No.1.

The cement produced here is favourably commented upon, as it is of good quality and is produced in large quantities.

More than 20 years have now passed since the complex started operation. During this period it has made an active contribution to stepping up construction in the DPRK by producing a large amount of cement.

The construction projects it has supplied cement to are too many to enumerate here, but they include the construction of the West Sea Barrage, the Thaechon Power Station, the motorway between Pyongyang and Kaesong and the sightseeing road between Pyongyang and Hyangsan, the Youth Hero Motorway, and Kwangbok and Thongil streets in the capital city

of Pyongyang.

The cement produced at the complex has not only been used to meet domestic demand, for it has also been exported in large quantities,

The Kumgang (diamond) and Sasum (deer) brands of cement have been shipped to more than 30 countries, including the former Soviet Union and China.

Despite the great hardships the country experienced while making the "Arduous March" several years ago owing to the US imperialists' attempts to isolate and stifle the country and successive natural disasters, workers at the complex pierced over 2,300 metres of a tunnel from the February 8 Jiktong Youth Coal Mine to their complex and installed a conveyor belt with a total length of more than 6,000 metres so as to enable the smooth supply of coal, the fuel necessary for cement production.

In addition, they installed a conveyor belt several thousand metres long linking the argillite mine and their complex so that they were supplied with a sufficient amount of argillite, an

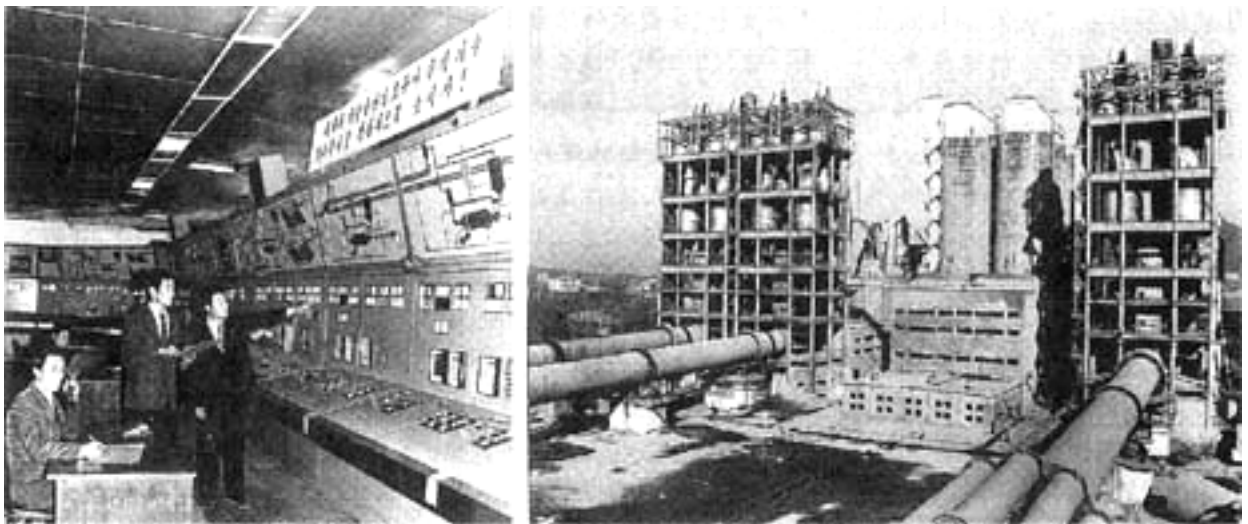
important raw material for cement production.

Today, the complex has four mines in all; the May 4 Mine and the Taedong Mine, both of which supply limestone, the basic raw material, the argillite mine and the February 8 Jiktong Youth Coal Mine, which exclusively supplies coal.

Almost all cement production at the complex is automated, with processes controlled through a computerized remote control system installed at a central control room. The normal operation of the cement kiln and the other facilities and the quantity and quality of the cement produced are constantly monitored by the controllers and appropriate measures to rectify any problems are taken in good time. The skill level of the employees is high, in conformity with the demands of the complex.

The Sunchon Silicate Technical College is based at the complex. The rector of the college is the manager of the complex.

The college, an institute of higher education under the study-while-working system,



The Sunchon Cement Complex.

admits employees according to a planned programme and produces many silicate engineering technicians every year.

The complex is now seething with revolutionary enthusiasm to put into effect the slogan, "Glorify this year of President Kim Il Sung's 90th birthday as a year of a new surge in the building of a powerful nation."

Workers are currently renovating Cement Kiln No.3, part of their efforts to put production onto a steady footing.

Just as cement is needed in building the dam of a power sta-

tion or a house, so it is needed everywhere. Kim Jong Hun, a deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly who has been working at the complex since its establishment and has risen to become its manager, after holding the positions of workteam leader, workshop manager and deputy chief engineer, says: "As was pointed out in the joint editorial of *Rodong Sinmun*, *Josoninmingun* and *Chongnyon Jonwi* published on the first day of this year, we will make an active contribution to the promotion of the well-being of the people by fulfilling our

responsibilities, true to the intention of the government to radically improve the people's living standards by stepping up socialist economic construction. We will do all we can to produce even one ton more of cement and send it to the construction sites where the great work of creation and renovation is under way by inspiring the employees, the masters of production, carefully analyzing profitability and organizing production down to the last detail."

Ki Yong Ho

In Defence of the Nation's Artery

There is a transport worker known as a good worker at the Jongju Locomotive Corps, one of the leading corps in Korea, under the Kaechon Railway Bureau. His name is Kang Chang Un. Now 48 years old, Kang is a man of average height and strong build, and the chief driver of *Pulgungi* (Red Flag) locomotive No. 5363.

"Kang Chang Un is very greedy for work. He always exceeds the targets set for him, filled with pride at defending the nation's artery, and readily carries out the hard, difficult tasks proposed," said an official of the corps.

After his graduation from Jongju Railway College, he began his career as an assistant driver in Juche 66 (1977), 25 years ago.

Thanks to the help of other drivers and his own efforts, he became a qualified driver after a few years, and in October Juche 74 (1985) he was appointed chief-driver of *Pulgungi* locomotive No. 5363.

On the day he took charge of the new locomotive he was too excited to sleep at night. The words the head of the corps had said, as he congratulated him, recurred to his mind. The head had encouraged him to lead the country with the new locomotive.

Kang resolved to work harder than ever for the sake of the country.

He took good care of the locomotive, as though it was his child. While training his work-team to do repair and maintenance of the locomotive by themselves, he helped them in every way to prepare enough spare parts and tools for the job.

He and his team have obtained and used more than 30,000 parts of hundreds of kinds for the repairs of the locomotive so far. Every part required painstaking effort.

The railway transportation industry faced many difficulties during the "Arduous March" of the 1990s.

Haulers, parts and tools were in desperately short supply, and the state of the track was not good, either.

One day, fully-loaded freight wagons filled Jongju Youth Station.

Kang was lost in deep thought at the sight of the wagons. He decided to conduct more vigorously the campaign to increase haulage capacity, a campaign proposed at the 18th Plenary Meeting of the Fifth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

To put his decision into prac-

tice, he left for his destination, carrying more than ever. It snowed heavily, but he did not hesitate at all. He ran his locomotive as required by the conditions and reached his destination.

With this determination, he ran his locomotive 760,000 km without accident and hauled 100,000 tons of goods more than his assigned task in the past 19 years.

Kang actively leads his work-team and other drivers to join this campaign.

He makes the work processes of his crewmen gear smoothly and ensures that all drivers know well the standard driving methods for different sections of track in order to prevent accidents and exceed their haulage targets.

His workteam has so far had an accident-free run of nearly two million kilometres and surpassed its planned haulage by 20 per cent every year. In the process, Kang has trained 12 drivers.

In support of this year's joint editorial of the country's three leading newspapers, his locomotive is running fast, sounding its whistle aloud as it hauls greater loads to the socialist construction sites that are alive with the efforts to build a powerful nation. 

Kim Jong Il Attends Holiday Celebration Hosted by Russian Ambassador to DPRK

Kim Jong Il, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK, attended a celebration of the Carnival (spring holiday), a traditional Russian holiday on March 17 on the invitation of the Russian ambassador to the DPRK, Andrei Gennadievich Karlov.

He was accompanied by officials of the Party and the State.

On his arrival at the embassy he was greeted by the ambassador and leading Russian diplomats.

Male and female staff members and children of the embassy dressed in their national costumes offered greetings, as well as vodka and pancake, to

Kim Jong Il, singing a folk song to the sound of traditional Russian instruments, the customary way for Russians to receive the most distinguished guest.

The Korean leader thanked Mr. Karlov for his invitation and warmly congratulated the staff members of the embassy on the Carnival.

The Russian ambassador hosted a dinner in honor of Kim Jong Il later that day.

The splendid dinner proceeded in a pleasant and festive atmosphere, with the highlight being a specially prepared performance given by the children of the embassy.

The performance was acclaimed by the audience, and the performers later had the opportunity to have their photo taken with Kim Jong Il.

A Red Flag Handed Down Through Three Generations

When a Pyongyang to Kumgol train arrived at Hamhung Station, a band playing music of welcome could be heard.

I stood on the platform to see what was going on. Dozens of youths were getting on the train, receiving an ovation from the families and friends who had come to see them off.

Witnessing the scene, I thought that all the country was seething with a passion.

An old woman who was saying something to a youth as she gave him a folded red flag, particularly attracted my attention.

After the train had left the station, I had a talk with her out of professional curiosity.

"My second grandson has Just left for the construction site of a power plant. I'm sure he'll work hard, because he took with him a red flag which has been raised at socialist construction sites through three generations of my family," she said, explaining the history of the flag.

When the Fatherland Liberation

War (June 1950-July 1953) was over and the whole country was hard at work with the task of postwar reconstruction, she, barely 20 years of age at the time, had worked on the reconstruction of the Hungnam Fertilizer Factory (its name at that time). She made a red flag by herself to hoist at the site. Upholding the flag, she gave her all to the reconstruction work, and later married a youth who had worked with her. When her husband left for the Phyongnam irrigation waterway construction site, he had taken the flag with him. In the 1980s, her son had worked at the West Sea Barrage construction site with the same flag, and a few years ago, her first grandson went to the Kwan-gmyongsong Salt Works with it.

Looking back at those periods, she said, "Though its color is a little faded, it represents the belief and spirit of our family. And now my second grandson has left for the construction site of a power plant with it."

Listening to this story filled with memories and pride, I thought about

the small red flag. It contains the patriotism of a family, handed down from generation to generation over the 50 years from the post-war reconstruction period to the present day. They put their faith and will in it, and devoted everything to defend it.

The story relates not only to her family's flag but also to the flags which can be seen everywhere in the DPRK. The Korean people say that under the red flag, they will survive, but without it, they will die.

Replaying her story over and over again in my mind, I recalled a phrase from the article "Red Flag Korea", which I had read in the Russian newspaper Patriot a few days before.

It says, "The DPRK remains unchanged as a bulwark of socialism and vigorously advances upholding the red flag."

The red flag represents the single-heartedness of our people. On an ordinary day in Hamhung, I realized this truth once again.

Ryu Kyong Hui

Looking at the No.10 Shirt

I have a football shirt. I often take it out of my wardrobe to look at it.

The original owner was south Korean worker Ko Jong Ryol, who came to the north to take part in a football match.

The shin smells of the body odor of a fellow compatriot in south Korea. It reminds me of the stadium on Yanggak Island, Pyongyang, which bubbled over with enthusiasm for reunification at the time of the match in August Juche 88 (1999).

The match, between the workers from the north and the south of Korea, was held at this stadium out of the desire for national reunification.

I was a worker at the Mansudae Art Studio at that time, and was lucky enough to take part in the game as one of the worker-footballers of the north.

"It's something like a dream. The day of reunification is not far off.

"United in one will and one feeling — this is reunification. The game itself is of little importance to me," said my mother, preparing my sportswear. I can hardly put into words the feeling I had as I entered the stadium.

The emotion of the moment was not confined to us footballers alone.

The whole stadium bubbled over with excitement and joy. All the spectators shouted themselves hoarse chanting "Korea is one!" and "national reunification!" They cheered both teams to victory, singing and dancing despite the pouring rain.

Their mood made it seem as if the reunification of the country had already been achieved.

The game ended in the victory of the workers' team from the north by a score of 5 goals to 4. After watching the game, a fellow Korean from abroad made this comment:

"Is this weather change an accidental or inevitable phenomenon? As if trying to cool the heated hearts of long-separated fellow Koreans, who hugged each other or shed tears of deep emotion because of their joy. It rained in torrents in the first half of the game. It cleared up completely in the second half and the final score was 5-4, notable for the fact that the game was held 54 years after the country's division."

If the figure 54 is said in Korean, it is pronounced "osipsa" (come here, please). Therefore, it can be interpreted to mean inviting each other.

After the game was over, a footballer from the south wearing the No. 10 jersey came up to me and said, "My name is Ko Jong Ryol. The family name Ko has only one origin, so it is clear that you and I are men of the same clan." He then asked the name of my grandfather and where I came from.

When I told him that my native town is Kosong, Kangwon Province, he slapped his knee and seemed as pleased as if he had met his real brother, saying, "Really? My father's side hails from Kosong. I think that even today my uncles and cousins will be living there!" We exchanged shirts with



the footballers from the south and thus his No. 10 shirt came into my hands and my No.5 into his. That is why he returned to south Korea wearing the No.5 shirt I had worn.

During the southern team's stay of a few days in Pyongyang he wanted to be with me at all times, and I was happy to oblige.

On the day of his departure from Pyongyang he said to me, his eyes brimming over with tears, "Myong Ho, let us chat with each other to our hearts' content about these shirts on the day of the country's reunification. I have a son. If you have a son in future I want you to bring him up as a footballer and let him wear this shirt."

It seems only yesterday that I heard his hoarse voice. But more than two years have already passed and I now have a two-year old son.

As he asked, I have carefully preserved the shirt he gave me. Looking at it, my friends say that I have the famous No.10 shirt.

They say that the world-famous footballers Pele of Brazil and Maradona of Argentina wore the No.10 shirt during matches.

But to me, no shirt with this number stands comparison with that of a south Korean brother.

I love this shirt more than any other.

Looking at it, my fellow-workers also feel that achieving national reunification is a matter of great urgency.

A joint conference of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, political parties and organizations held in Pyongyang called on all Koreans to defend the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration and fully implement it in order to bring about a decisive phase this year in the efforts to achieve the country's independent reunification by the concerted efforts of the Korean nation.

I am optimistic that the day is not far when we will demolish the barrier of national division and sit face to face with our south Korean brothers.

*Worker Ko Myong Ho,
Mansudae Art Studio*

Picture Album The Leader and the People Published

Korea Pictorial published the picture album *The Leader and the People* in January. The book includes 70 photographs of leader Kim Jong Il, who established a six-year record of revolution defending socialism through his army-centred guidance during the rigorous period of the "Arduous March" and the forced march. It also includes 311 pictures of the mementoes of

his revolutionary activities and the Korean People's Army soldiers and the Korean people who faithfully supported him.

The album is subdivided into sections covering the introduction, successful accomplishment of the task of ensuring the eternal life of President Kim Il Sung, adherence to the army-centered politics that led to the successful

completion of the "Arduous March" and the acceleration of the planned building of a strong and prosperous nation, paternal care for the people, the effort for national reunification, and endeavours for independence, peace and friendship.

It was published in Korean, English, French, Russian, Chinese, Spanish and German.

New Technology

Phosphate Coating on Metal Surface

The DPRK recently introduced the new technology of coating metal surfaces with phosphate materials in various industrial sectors. This ultramodern technology creates a new kind of metal surface by forming a layer of insoluble phosphate material on a raw metal surface. The new surface-protecting practice is far superior to plating or painting. Its advantage comes from its simple and harmless treatment process and lower cost.

The most beneficial effect of the process is that it prevents erosion of the metal. It is therefore very useful for machines exposed to erosive substances like air, water, seawater and waste gas. (Valves in boiling equipment, farm machines working in paddy fields and ships are some examples.) If such machines are made of ordinary metals and then covered with phosphate, valuable stainless steel can be saved while erosion is prevented.

A secondary benefit is that it raises the anti-abrasion strength of metals. When the surface of ordinary metal is coated with phosphate materials, various kinds of revolving machine parts can acquire higher qualities without the need for steel alloys or non-

ferrous metals for the bushing.

The new treatment is also effective in the treatment of cold-elongated or cold-rolled products.

The process of elongating or rolling metals usually involves a process of heating and then slowly cooling the metal in order to avoid casehardening. With the new technology, however, this process becomes unnecessary, while fuel consumption is reduced and the service life of rolling machines and rollers is lengthened, thus raising productivity.

The new method is also effective in intensifying the adhesiveness of paint when applied to the treated metal surfaces. In this case the phosphate substance is used as the base material for painting. The painted layer lasts longer and peeling is reduced because the adhesive strength between the

painted layer and the metal surface is greater.

The last benefit of the phosphate coating is a lowering of noise levels. If revolving parts like cogwheels are lined with phosphate, previously metallic friction becomes non-metallic friction, resulting in less noise.

The above-mentioned benefits have all been confirmed under real production conditions.

Relevant technical exchange with many countries has been promoted actively under the supervision of the research team at Korea's Manhung General Corporation.



Metal parts after treatment with phosphate.

The Poultry Plant of North Phyongan Province

I arrived at the poultry plant of North Phyongan Province at noon amid warm sunshine.

Cosy buildings with light blue roofs were dotted around both sides of a straight road that ran along the base of the surrounding hills. Combined with the busy refrigeration trucks, the thick orchards between the buildings, and the rows of modern houses behind the plant, it formed a perfect picture.

"Welcome! Let's walk together. I was just on my way to the processing shop", said plant manager Ri Chun Gun, 48, receiving me.

The plant covers an area of 240 hectares, and its various facilities are separated from each other.

The building at the entrance to the plant was the poultry processing shop.

All operations, from the hanging to the packing of the chickens, were on an automated assembly line. Computers controlled the temperature of the water in the tanks, the turning speed of chains and all other processing operations.

The workers in white overalls were hanging chickens upside-down over the assembly line. The

birds were given an electric shock and their blood was drawn before they were soaked in hot water sprayed from the hot water tanks and then plucked, all of which was done automatically.

Head-cutting, disemboweling and the removal of fat and stomach were done in turn, before they were again washed in the finishing tanks and carried by conveyor belts to be packed.

Processing continued without cease on the assembly line while we were talking.

A little more than ten workers look after all these processes and can process 7,000 chickens in six hours, the plant manager boasted.

The next stop on my tour of the plant was the egg division.

The moment I entered the building my breath was taken away.

Eggs were cascading forth.

Four six-tiered racks stood in a long line, in which tens of thousands of hens were laying an endless stream of eggs. The warm eggs were then rolling onto conveyor belts.

A woman worker said that the hens lay tens of thousands of

eggs a day.

Computers controlled the supply of feed and water, the temperature and the carriage of eggs.

I came out of the hatchery and walked up to another shop.

A sculpture of a large, smiling hen holding a spoon reading "assorted fodder" seemed to point the way to the fattening area.

Five buildings of the same type stood in formation as if ready to undergo inspection.

The snow-white red-combed chickens in the first building were as boisterous as a chorus, assaulting my ears. They were "lunching", and all looked well.

A flatcar from the processing shop carried assorted feed.

A woman worker said, "I am a breeder in name only. Computers do everything; I just observe if the chickens are well or not and prevent them from flocking. They reach three kilograms in weight in 42 days, so I produce graduates eight times a year."

A red water-container hanging from the ceiling aroused my curiosity. A hen picking fodder turned and pecked at a yellow jaw-like tray that stretched out. Water flowed out from it.

"It is a water-feeder. It is red or yellow, which are liked by chickens. The water is filtered and mixed with medicine," added the plant manager.

Just as they are in the other parts of the plant, all processes at the breeding and hatching houses are automated. Egg testing, the inoculation of the birds, and the mixing and shaping of feed were no exceptions.

"In December last year leader Kim Jong Il visited my plant. It has just started operation, but it has a bright future. The workers' enthusiasm is very high. We will contribute to the building of a strong, prosperous nation by producing more meat and eggs," said plant manager Ri Chun Gun as he bid farewell to me.



Part of the chicken plant.

Yom Song

From Kim Il Sung's Reminiscences *"With the Century"*

Fighters from Northern Manchuria

(Continued from the previous issue)

It was well-known even to the men of the main force that Choe Yong Jin was a famous fighter and a bold man. He became renowned as a valorous fighter since he displayed courage in the battle to annihilate high-ranking officers of the Japanese "punitive" force and their men who were on an inspection tour in a motorboat.

Choe Yong Jin was strong in his revolutionary principles. Once, when he was a regimental or a company commander in northern Manchuria, he visited his father who was serving as a Self-defence Corps member, in order to obtain provisions for his unit.

His father had originally been an anti-Japanese independence fighter who fought in the Independence Army. When he came back home following the breakup of the Independence Army, the enemy drafted him into the Self-defence Corps to employ him in disrupting and alienating Koreans.

When Choe Yong Jin told his father that his unit was undergoing hardships because of a lack of provisions and asked him to give some food grain, the latter flatly refused, saying there was no grain to give him.

To tell the truth, Choe Yong Jin's family had several acres of land and plenty of grain. Though his family was not very rich, it could get along without having to eat gruel for supper. I am not sure whether Choe Yong Jin's father refused to give grain to show to other members of the Self-defence Corps that he was not in collusion with the guerrilla army.

Hot-tempered Choe Yong Jin was enraged to hear his father's answer. He said to him: "How can you, Father, who served in the Independence Army, behave like that? You, more than anyone else, should give us assistance, shouldn't you? The anti-Japanese guerrillas are suffering every hardship in order to oust the Japanese imperialist robbers and win back the lost country. Those who do not help the guerrillas shedding blood in the fight for the restoration of the country, are traitors who have no concern for the country and the nation."

Probably Choe Yong Jin's father was greatly shocked by what his son had said. Anyway, he gave his son 15 cartloads of grain. In later days, too, he procured a large amount of grain and weapons and sent them to the guerrillas. Although he was a member of the Self-defence Corps, he invariably assisted the guerrilla army without abandoning the patriotism and fidelity of his bygone days when he had fol-

lowed the Independence Army with a rifle in his hand.

Later, the Japanese killed him.

In the days of the IAF, Choe Yong Jin was a company commander in our contingent. Even the Soviet soldiers admired his company, the 1st Company, because it led others in all respects. He was well-known as an exacting, competitive and hard-working commander.

After liberation he fought well against spies and saboteurs to defend Pyongyang. He also worked conscientiously to train the hard cores of the regular armed forces at the Pyongyang Institute and the Central Security Officers School. When he was Minister of Fisheries, there were bumper harvests of fish. At one time he was a Vice-Premier.

At the training base I held a touching reunion with the fighters whom we had sent to northern Manchuria when we were active in eastern Manchuria. Among them were Choe Kwang, Kim Kyong Sok, Jon Chang Chol, Pak Rak Kwon, Kim Ok Sun and An Jong Suk.

On seeing me, Choe Kwang burst into tears, saying he had not seen me for such a long time. When he stopped crying, he said, "General, even in northern Manchuria, I always looked towards Mt. Paektu, where you were. Now I will never go to another unit even if you send me back forcibly."

Following the formation of the IAF, he became a platoon leader.

I met Choe Kwang for the first time when he was head of the Children's Bureau. At that time he brought an art troupe of the Children's Corps to me, and they gave a performance.

Around the time we left for our first expedition to northern Manchuria, he gave up his work as head of the Children's Bureau and joined the young volun-



Choe Yong Jin.

teers' corps. He said that until that time he had thought that when a rifle was fired, a bullet flew out together with the cartridge. As soon as he joined the corps, he became a platoon leader.

I remember how, when a battle at Diaomiaotai began, he stationed his platoon on the hill west of Yaoyinggou to guard me. Later on, he took part in the Battle of Laoheishan. Before he came to the Far East region, he was a platoon leader of the guard unit at the headquarters of Zhou Bao-zhong's 5th Corps. I was told that Zhou Bao-zhong was very fond of Choe Kwang.

Because of this, Zhou Bao-zhong asked us to give him Kang Kon, Choe Kwang and Pak Rak Kwon first of all when he was selecting people needed for the operations against the Japanese in Northeast China.

When they went to Northeast China, Kang Kon became commander of a military sub-district and Choe Kwang, Pak Rak Kwon and Nam Chang Su, regimental commanders.

The area of activities for Choe Kwang's regiment was Wangqing County. In the days of Manchukuo they built their unit and waged battles eating the sorghum stored up by the Japanese. At that time some people complained that there were too many troops organized by Choe Kwang and others. They claimed that only 200 troops were allowed to be kept in the county. Therefore, Choe Kwang continued to recruit people into the army in the rural areas outside the county seat. The armed ranks organized by our comrades in those days made, in later days, a major contribution to the building of the army in our country, not to speak of the operations to liberate Northeast China.

Choe Kwang's unit made great military achievements in Dunhua, too. Engaged in battles on one hand, on the other they formed Party and mass organizations.

We recalled Choe Kwang to the homeland in the early autumn of 1946, instructing him to choose his best men and bring them with him. He came home with some 200 others whom he had chosen. On the day of their arrival in Pyongyang, Kim Chaek and Mu Jong went to the railway station to meet them. At the news of Choe Kwang's arrival, Kim Jong Suk prepared a special meal for him.

After his return home, Choe Kwang worked as chief of staff of Camp No. 1 of the Security Officers Training Centre. He took part in the Fatherland Liberation War as commander of the 1st Division of the Korean People's Army. He has performed great deeds for the building of our army.

He was faithful both as a man and a warrior. When the Pueblo incident occurred, he ate his meals and slept in his office for a year without returning home because of the tense situation. He faithfully assisted the Party and the leader with a pure heart all his life. He has experienced twists and turns and has suffered greatly in the course of

the revolution. However, he has always been loyal.

Choe Kwang is one of the military officers whom I treasure and love most.

Comrade Kim Jong Il also trusts him very much, loves him dearly and gives him prominence. His great trust in and love for Choe Kwang can be clearly seen from the fact that, after he was acclaimed as the Supreme Commander, he appointed the latter, now in his seventies, Chief of General Staff of the Korean People's Army.

When I was going to the training base in the Far East region, I thought I would also meet Pak Kil Song and Ho Hyong Sik without fail. However, to my deep regret, my meeting with them was not realized because both of them had been killed in action in northern Manchuria.

Ho Hyong Sik was one of the founders of the Zhuhe guerrilla army. Kim Chaek talked a lot about Ho, as indeed did all the fighters from northern Manchuria.

From Kim Chaek's stories about Ho Hyong Sik I still remember the episode in which, during a winter march to Jiangnan, Ho stood guard as a punishment on his own accord. That march was said to have been unusually arduous.

With a view to lessening the men's fatigue, Ho Hyong Sik had commanders stand sentinel and he himself kept guard. They had no watches in those days. Therefore, they measured the time by burning sticks of incense. When one stick was burnt out, it was considered to be time to relieve the sentry.

One night it was Ho Hyong Sik's turn to stand sentinel in front of the camp gate, but he failed to relieve the sentry by mistake. The following morning he criticized himself in front of his men and at night he stood guard as a punishment on his own accord.

Seeing the chief of staff standing sentry as a punishment, one man felt extremely sorry for him and broke his incense stick in half.

When he came to know this, Ho Hyong Sik said to the man: "I am grateful to you for being considerate towards me, your commander. However, you have overlooked one important thing. There cannot be dual standards of discipline in the revolutionary ranks. Once a routine is established, everyone should observe it without exception. Only then will discipline prevail throughout the ranks. Let us both stand sentry tonight as a punishment and each reflect on our wrongs." It is said that he stood sentry as a punishment that night again.

Ho Hyong Sik received word from Kim Chaek to come to the training base as soon as possible. Even after that, Ho put off his departure for the base to finish the planned operations. He was killed in action before he managed to go to the base.

No success of any military operations could make up for the loss of such a fine commander as Ho Hyong Sik.

The death of Ho Hyong Sik was indeed a

grievous loss to us who were planning the operations for the liberation of the country.

Pak Kil Song had been active in Wangqing before he went to northern Manchuria and served as commander of a contingent. Under the influence of O Jung Hwa, he took part in the "harvest and spring struggle" of the early 1930s at a young age.

Pak Tok Sim, Pak Kil Song's father, rented a farm and at the same time he worked as a boatman. I knew that old man well. On many occasions he carried on his boat the goods people sent to our unit.

When he was head of the Children's Bureau, Pak Kil Song frequented my office. So we made friends with each other very quickly. He was very hard-working. He was not contented with the work as head of the Children's Bureau. He always sought a chance to join the army. And, when we were leaving for our second expedition to northern Manchuria, he badgered me to allow him to join us.

I denied his request and sent him to Luoizigou as a political operative. The revolutionary masses who had lived in the guerrilla areas of Wangqing and Hunchun gathered there. Pak Kil Song was a suitable man for protecting them. He was proficient at work with the masses.

In later days, I heard about Pak Kil Song several times through messengers.

Pak Kil Song went to northern Manchuria because his identity had been disclosed in the area of Luoizigou. After he had been flogged in prison, he was released on sick bail. He got away from Luoizigou in search of our unit. Although he was young, he struggled well in prison.

From the time he was crossing the Laoyeling Pass, Pak Kil Song underwent great hardships to find out our whereabouts. It is said that after some time he joined a unit which was active in the neighbourhood of Xiaolaidipan, Ningan County.

Pak Kil Song assumed the heavy responsibility of commander of a contingent when he was still in his twenties. He was a model in the activities of the Communist Youth League. In the days when he was commander of a contingent, Ri Jong San was his orderly.

Pak Kil Song's contingent was renowned as a unit which was good at fighting. His contingent had cavalry. I was told that the enemy dreaded the cavalry very much. Having wound up all the work that had been planned, Pak Kil Song was on his way to the Far East region. However, he was arrested and killed by the enemy.

Ri Jong San received the news by wireless and ran to me. During the march Pak Kil Song engaged in a fierce fight against the enemy and was badly wounded. He fell unconscious and the enemy dragged him away. If he had come to the Far East region soon after receiving our message, such a

thing would not have happened. It is truly regrettable.

When we brought Pak Kil Song's father, who had been living in Luoizigou, to Pyongyang to live here, Choe Kwang and Kim Ok Sun wanted to take the old man to their home and support him there. So they began to follow the necessary procedure. However, Kim Il happened to learn about this, and asserted that he should support the old man in view of their relationship in the days of the small-unit operations.

The news of the two families maintaining that they should each support the old man reached my ears. Kim Il asked me to make a decision on the matter. I was satisfied with the noble humanity of the first generation of our revolution and said to Kim Il: "Pak Kil Song's father is not only the father of Kim Il, Choe Kwang and Kim Ok Sun. The old man is the father of us all, and all of us are his sons and daughters. Therefore, let us all support the old man on behalf of Pak Kil Song."

We made arrangements for the old man to live in one of the good houses on the bank of the Pothong River in which ministers and vice-ministers lived in those days.

There would be no end to it if I were to talk about all my comrades-in-arms in our days in northern Manchuria.

When I was at the training base in the Far East region, I also met the fighters from northern Manchuria who, as the special detachment of the IAF, took part in joint reconnaissance with the Soviet troops. Hong Chun Su was one of them.

Hong was in the Independence Army for some time, and visited such places as Pyongyang, Kangso, Anak and Sariwon to carry out a series of fund-raising activities. He was a crack shot and was good at reconnoitring. During the operations to liberate the country, he fought on the frontline.

The Korean communists who were part of the IAF had formerly fought in southern, eastern or northern Manchuria. Nevertheless, they were firmly united in ideology and will, and powerfully accelerated the final victory of the Korean revolution. The Laoyeling Pass is on the boundary between eastern, southern and northern Manchuria. However, that mountain pass could not draw a line of demarcation in the hearts of Korean communists. All of them wished to go to Mt. Paektu and fight with us even if they were to die in the course of this.

Their unanimous wish to fight on Mt. Paektu became the factor that ensured the unity of ideology and will among our ranks. It was a great inspiration for us as we strengthened, our own forces for the Korean revolution.

From Chapter 23 "In Alliance With the International Anti-Imperialist Forces," Part 1 "The Anti-Japanese Revolution"

Scaffold Worker Choe Chang Jo

In November last year Choe Chang Jo, leader of workteam No.2 of the scaffolding shop, part of the shock-brigade of Party members, was awarded the title of Labour Hero.

The State bestowed on him the highest honour given to citizens of the DPRK in recognition of the meritorious deeds he had performed in the construction of monumental structures of everlasting value, such as the Monument to Party Founding and the Monument to Victory in the Fatherland Liberation War.

Choe was formerly an ordinary worker at the Munphyong Smelter.

Only a few people there knew him, as he was a man of small stature and slight build.

In Juche 75 (1986) the 150,000-seat May Day Stadium was built in Pyongyang with the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students ahead. Choe took part in this construction project.

He had volunteered for the difficult job of scaffolder. At the time he was 37 years old. He was accepted as a scaffold worker with difficulty, because he was a little old to start a new job of this nature.

After starting work as a scaffolder he threw himself into his assignment, saying, "The work of a scaffolder is to perform the most difficult task in the highest place."

Choe had the opportunity to demonstrate his ability when the "matter of assembling an extra-large arched girder was raised. The girder was to be 120 metres in length, 180 tons in weight and 48 metres in height. If it was assembled using existing methods, the project was unlikely to be completed in the set time.

Lively discussion took place as to how to build it. Against this background, a national prize contest was held to find the best solution. Choe took part in it.

Although tired from his arduous job, he researched possible methods during his spare time, not resting for even a day.

Through this hard work he conceived a bold and original method of putting together parts of the extra-large arched girder on the ground and lifting them into position as a complete unit.

Choe's method enabled the project to be completed nearly two years ahead of schedule.

In October last year his workteam was assigned the task of transporting some heavy loads weighing 200 tons in total to a place 100 kilometres distant.

The route they had to follow was not smooth,

According to the information available to them, there were several sharp bends in the roads on the way to the destination. In addition, there were many places where they had to pass by cliffs.

The total length of the vehicles to be used, namely five tractors and trailers, was more than 50 metres. It was therefore going to be an extremely difficult job.

However, Choe faced the challenge head-on. He organized the procession of tractors and loaded the trailers, he himself leading the way.

He advanced the tractors and trailers inch by inch, regulating their speed according to the slopes and turns of the road, thus enabling them to reach their destination in three days.

Those who had seen this with their own eyes gave unstinted praise to Choe, saying that there

was something extraordinary about him.

The achievement was not an isolated example of his can-do attitude.

On another occasion, his workteam transported a large rock weighing 250 tons. On their way back to their workplace the rock slipped into a bog. Some people told him that it would be difficult to remove it without a crane and a tractor. However, he took charge of the situation and ensured that it was successfully pulled out of the bog using a pulley, a wire rope and sleepers.

Using the experience gained in the course of his working life, he put forward several technical innovation proposals, including the "method of transporting big rocks on the basis of the coefficient of friction of steel." These innovations made a contribution to saving manpower, materials and equipment, thus bringing substantial benefits to the state.

Busy as he is, he continues the work of increasing the ranks of skilled workers.

Today all of his workteam have become highly skilled in scaffolding.

In addition to their regular work, they are now raising a large number of pigs, goats, ducks, chickens, geese and rabbits. Once again, Choe is taking the lead. He gets up early every morning and takes care of them, and checks on them again before going to bed, each night without fail.

As a result, his team enjoy plentiful birthday tables.

Choe gets great pleasure from the happiness he brings to his workteam through raising these animals.

Yun Yong Gum

Writing for Reunification

On the Central Committee of the Korean Writers Union is a female poet in her forties whose work is, unusually, known to Koreans in all parts of the world.

Kim Ryon Sil is well known among Koreans in the north and south of the country and abroad, for she has written many popular reunification songs.

Born in the industrial city of Hamhung on the east coast of Korea, she keenly realized even in her childhood that national reunification was not an abstract notion but something of direct relevance to her family and herself.

Recognizing the unusual poetical talent that she had begun to develop, the state ensured that her potential was realized.

Her works are characterized by a consistent theme of national reunification.

When Rim Su Gyong came to Pyongyang from south Korea in Juche 78 (1989) as a delegate of Jondaehyop (the National Council of Student Representatives), she left a deep impression on Kim.

The poet asked herself: Though she is a frail girl, Rim Su Gyong devotes herself to the work for the Korean nation and for the reunification of the country. But what have I done for the country so far?

It was at that moment that she confirmed her determination to spend all her life as a writer working for a reunified Korea.

She presented a collection of her poems, entitled "Flower of Reunification", to Rim Su Gyong. Whenever reunification missions came to Pyongyang from south Korea she was the first to meet them, warmly greeting them and taking care of them with the affection of a mother.

She served them dishes she had prepared with all her heart so that they would not lose their appetite, and provided them with tonics she herself had compounded so that they would not fall ill. This was a reflection of her sincerity.

She also gave them garments and souvenirs and recited her poems to them, poems based upon the aspiration for national reunification, in the hope that they would fight harder for the sake of Korea.

Small wonder that reunification missions from south Korea are fond of calling her mother of the north, or mother of reunification, though she is still young.

After one recital, a delegate from Hanchongryon (South Korean Federation of University Student Councils) made the following entry in a record of impressions: "I will engrave every line of your impressive poem in my memory, deeper than anyone's advice.

"Should I encounter difficulty, I shall not be daunted by it, so long as I remember the mother who cared for us with heart and soul.

"Mother, you have promised to give us a ride on the flower-decorated coach on the day of national reunification. Don't forget it."

Though short, the comments reflect his feelings of gratitude and affection for Kim, who lives for reunification and gives her all to the work to bring earlier the day of its realization.

Leader Kim Jong Il expressed his appreciation for her sincere efforts for reunification and also spoke highly of other poems. After listening to "Let's Go Hand in Hand Along the Road to Reunification", a poem intended to be sung, he gave great praise to her.

The number of poetical works she has created now exceeds 100.

As she is devoting herself entirely to the creation of poetry, more excellent reunification songs are sure to be produced. They are songs her fellow Koreans will sing from the bottom of their hearts.

Choe Ik Hyon



Poet Kim Ryon Sil.

GRAND COMMEMORATION OF THE DAY OF THE SUN

April 15 this year marks the 90th birthday of President Kim Il Sung, who devoted his whole life to the accomplishment of the cause of the Korean revolution and global independence. During the holiday period, grand events took place in the capital of DPRK and all across the land, as well as in many other countries around the world. They were diverse in form and content and large in scale.

Visits to the Kumsusan Memorial Palace, Floral Baskets Laid at President Kim Il Sung's Statue on Mansu Hill

Leader Kim Jong Il, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea National Defence Commission and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, visited the Kumsusan Memorial Palace and paid tribute to respected President Kim Il Sung, together with commanding officers of the Korean People's Army.

Senior officials of Party and state, visiting foreign delegations and delegates, diplomatic missions in Pyongyang, overseas Koreans, veteran Korean fighters of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle resident in China, people involved in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and their families, were among many others who went to the palace, where the President lies in state, and paid their respects.

The plaza in front of the palace was the venue for a ceremony held by the officers and men of the three services of the Korean People's Army to pay their respects to Generalissimo Kim Il Sung and swear allegiance to him and Supreme Commander Kim Jong Il.

Many countries presented Kim Jong Il with gifts, letters of congratulations and flower baskets. Flower baskets from the Palestinian, Guinean and Mongolian presidents and the Communist Party of Denmark (Marxism and Leninism) were placed in front of Kim Il Sung's statue on Mansu Hill. The Cambodian king and the Indonesian president sent floral baskets to the Korean embassies in their countries.

The DPRK-resident diplomatic corps, military attaches corps, economic and trade councillors corps, officials in charge of cultural and friendship affairs from various embassies, participants in the 20th April Spring Friendship Art Festival, delegates of organizations of friendship and solidarity with the Korean people and international organizations climbed Mansu Hill to lay baskets of flowers in front of Kim Il Sung's statue.

Koreans from all walks of life went to his statues in their localities to pay their respects and place flo-

ral baskets, bouquets and flowers.

Statues of Kim Il Sung were newly erected at the Kaechon Revolutionary Site, a place known for the "250-mile journey for national liberation" made by the young President, and in Ranam District, Chongjin City. Monuments to the President's on-the-spot guidance visits were built in many places across the country.

Commemoration Meetings, National and Local

A national meeting was held in Pyongyang to commemorate the 90th birthday of President Kim Il Sung.

Supreme Commander Kim Jong Il was present on the occasion.

The event was also attended by senior officials of Party and state, members of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, deputies to the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, KPA officers and men, ordinary working people in Pyongyang, delegations of overseas Koreans and individual overseas countrymen. Invited to the meeting were visiting foreign guests.

The commemoration report was made by Kim Yong Nam, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly.

Describing the holiday as the greatest one that the nation was commemorating in this important period of efforts to build a powerful socialist state, Kim stressed that President Kim Il Sung was a great leader of the revolution and a great man whose life had been recorded as the most brilliant in the chronicles of the 20th century. He went on to say: "From the beginning of his sacred struggle for national liberation with the resolution to shoulder the nation's destiny on himself until he reached his eighties,

Kim Il Sung devoted his all to the achievement of the people's freedom and liberation, to the prosperity and development of the country and to the victory of the masses' cause of independence, the socialist cause. His life was one full of vicissitudes. He experienced all kinds of challenges and ordeals in his efforts to conduct revolutionary wars, class struggles, and gigantic construction projects, overcoming the political turmoil of the time. His leadership was always victorious in the whole course from national liberation to socialist construction.

"His motto was 'The people are my God'. He mixed with the people all his life, sharing good and bad times with them and continuing his journeys to give personal guidance until the last days of his life in order to provide them with better living conditions."

Kim Yong Nam also mentioned the President's magnanimity. He said:

"President Kim Il Sung's revolutionary comradeship and sense of obligation found clear expression in his relations with a large number of people around the world. With infinite loyalty to the cause of independence of mankind, the great leader offered sincere assistance to the revolutionary struggles of many nations, gave them unstinting material and moral support and accelerated the process of building a new independent and peaceful world through his energetic foreign diplomacy.

"The lofty personality he showed working indefatigably to the end of his life to ensure a bright future for humanity is enshrined in the hearts of the progressive people, who still ardently revere and worship the seasoned leader of the international community."

Kim Yong Nam remarked that Kim Il Sung's history is continued steadfastly thanks to the Workers' Party of Korea. He appealed to the entire nation to hold President Kim Il Sung as the eternal sun of Juche and unite more firmly than ever behind leader Kim Jong Il with one mind and purpose and thus hasten the building of a powerful socialist country.

The national meeting was also addressed by So Man Sul, chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan.

Similar meetings were held in provinces, cities and counties throughout the country.

The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea gave banquets in honour of party and government delegations and delegates from various countries, many foreign guests and overseas Koreans.

A gala evening was put on by youth and students in Pyongyang at Kim Il Sung Square amid a dazzling display of fireworks that lit up the sky over the center of the city.

Colourful Functions

Marking the Day of the Sun, colourful functions were held in many places in the capital city of Pyongyang and in the provinces.

In Pyongyang, a large-scale seminar on the Juche idea took place.

The speakers were unanimous in saying that President Kim Il Sung indicated the correct way for the popular masses to carve out their destinies by founding the Juche idea. He went on to accomplish immortal exploits in the Korean revolution and for the cause of global independence in the 20th century by embodying the Juche idea in revolutionary practice, the speakers added.

Saying that the whole course of the Korean revolution, shining with victory and glory, offered proof of the truth, correctness and invincible vitality of the Juche idea, the speakers explained this point in depth.

People of all walks of life in Pyongyang and the provinces held various meetings, such as a meeting to tell stories about the virtue of President Kim Il Sung, a meeting to tell of his greatness, and a meeting to pledge loyalty to leader Kim Jong Il in thoroughly implementing the final instructions of President Kim Il Sung.

Festivals and exhibitions covering a variety of fields were held. They included a national book exhibition, photo exhibitions, the Pyongyang Fine Arts Festival, a science and technology festival, a Korean stamp exhibition and a sports festival.

Ceremonies to mark the opening of Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia hothouses took place in various places.

An international marathon race, a march to President Kim Il Sung's native home at Mangyongdae, a ten-day film festival, an art performance, a joint meeting of representatives from organizations of friendship and solidarity with the Korean people and those from international organizations on a visit to Pyongyang took place.

Commemorative coins marked "Comrade Kim Il Sung, Our Eternal Sun" were issued and an awards ceremony for the International Kim Il Sung Prize was held.

Fourth Kimilsungia Show

The Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia Exhibition Centre was opened in Pyongyang and the fourth Kimilsungia show was held.

The exhibition hall presented an enrapturing spectacle, reflecting the unbounded respect and reverence of the Korean and the world revolutionary peoples for President Kim Il Sung.

On display in the exhibition hall were more than 5,500 Kimilsungias, as well as Kimjongilias and a wide variety of beautiful flowers in full bloom, all of which were grown by working people of all social strata, men of the People's Army, students and schoolchildren in the country.

Also on show were Kimilsungias raised abroad or at foreign embassies in Pyongyang.

Many people from the capital and the provinces, as well as a number of foreign guests, visited the new centre during the holiday period.

The show was a festival showing mankind's respect for and praise of President Kim Il Sung, a peerlessly great man, through the immortal flower Kimilsungia. It made a contribution to exchanging the achievements and experiences gained in the cultivation and propagation of this flower.

Mass Gymnastics and Artistic Performance "Arirang"

Koreans mass gymnastics and artistic performance "Arirang", a masterpiece of the new century, was held at the May Day Stadium, located on the picturesque Rungna Islet in the River Taedong.

Kaleidoscopic scenes of gymnastics and perfor-

mance art, large flash cards for the creation of huge and beautiful murals which change endlessly like frames of film, the combination of extra-large film scenes and laser lighting, and many other sophisticated devices all contributed to creating a breathtaking spectacle.

The performance, which unfolds the history of Korea through "Arirang", an old Korean song, was given by more than 100,000 artistes, students and school children.

The Koreans, who sang "Arirang" to tell of their sufferings in the past, are now loudly singing "Arirang" of happiness. The spectators were struck with admiration, saying that the realities of today made it possible to unfold such scenes in the performance.

April Spring Friendship Art Festival

The 20th April Spring Friendship Art Festival was held in Pyongyang between April 14th and 25th. It was attended by more than 100 performance groups, including winners of domestic and international contests and renowned artists from more than 60 countries across the five continents, and groups of Koreans from home and abroad.

The festival featured singing, music, dance and acrobatics, demonstrating the national artistic activities and skills of the various performers.

Performers from many countries and overseas Korean counterparts staged works singing of the immortal revolutionary achievements of President Kim Il Sung, contributing to making this festival one of global significance and commemorating the Day of the Sun as a common holiday of mankind.

The enthusiasm of the participants helped to improve the friendship and cultural ties between the countries taking part. Those involved also prayed for the President's eternal life and expressed solidarity with the righteous cause of the Korean people.

The festival was accompanied by the 5th Symposium on the Aesthetics of the Present Times and National Art.

Labour Feats

The Korean people performed great feats of labour in the run-up to the Day of the Sun.

More than 100,000 hectares of land was realigned in South Hwanghae Province.

Thanks to the concerted efforts of the soldiers and residents in the province, paddy fields have been realigned into standard sizes of 1,000 or 1,500 phyong (one phyong equals 3.9 sq. yds) in flat areas, 800 or 1,000 phyong in semi-mountainous areas and 300 or 500 phyong in mountainous areas.

During the land realignment almost 750,000 patches were reduced to around 341,700 and more than 49,600 kilometres of ridge were replaced by 32,200 kilometres, thus increasing the total area of land under cultivation.

The work allowed the former 10,766 km of waterway to be cut to 9,690 km, whereas the roads stretching across the fields increased by 40 kilome-

tres, making it possible to realize the comprehensive mechanization of farming.

The Fish Processing Factory of the Rason Taehung Trade Company was inaugurated on the same occasion. Covering more than 96,000 square metres, the factory is equipped with modern production processes.

In addition, the large excursion ship "Jangjagang" was launched on the River Jangja in Kanggye, the project of the Kaechon-Lake Thaesong waterway neared completion, and many factories and enterprises reached their targets ahead of schedule.

Amid the Great Interest of the World People

To mark the Day of the Sun and the 70th founding anniversary of the heroic Korean People's Army, the title of honorary citizen of Damascus was awarded to President Kim Il Sung and a ceremony to name a street in the Kafar Susa District of the city Kim Il Sung Street was held in Syria.

In Syria, Russia, the UK, the Democratic Congo, Cambodia and many other countries committees of preparation for the Day of the Sun staged various functions.

The chairman of the Bulgaria-Korea Friendship Association said in his speech at an assembly to commemorate the Day of the Sun held in Sofia, Bulgaria: "Comrade Kim Il Sung is the great father of the Korean people and the progressive people of the world who believed in the people as his God and devoted his life to their well-being.

"He lives on in the hearts of humanity, and his cause is being creditably carried on by Comrade Kim Jong Il."

Similar assemblies were held in capitals and provinces of many countries, including Denmark, the Czech Republic, Romania, Germany, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Tanzania and Peru. The participants extolled the President's revolutionary achievements.

A national symposium on the Juche idea was held in India.

A meeting to discuss the achievements of President Kim Il Sung, book and photo exhibitions, Korean film festivals, commemorative lectures and other colourful events took place in Uganda, Austria, Ethiopia, Benin and many other countries.

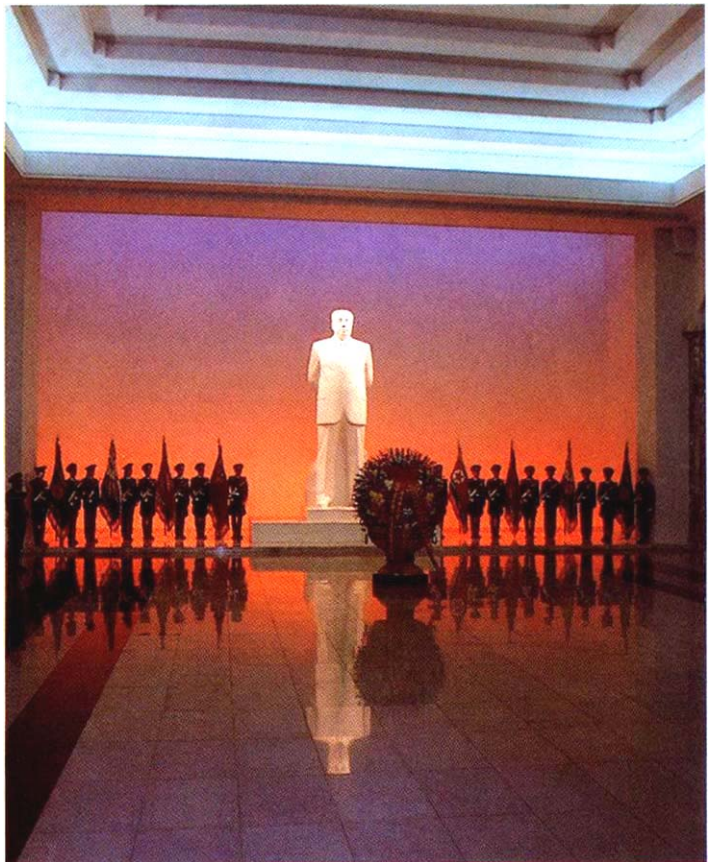
President Kim Il Sung's works **Let Us Accomplish the Cause of Socialism and Communism Under the Revolutionary Banner of Juche and Let the North and the South Open the Way to Peace and the Reunification of the Country in a United Effort** were published in Cuba and Austria respectively. A Mexican publishing house issued leader Kim Jong Il's work **Let Us Carry Out the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung's Instructions for National Reunification**.

Many other foreign publishers issued writings of President Kim Il Sung and WPK General Secretary Kim Jong Il. 

Grand Commemoration of the Day of the Sun

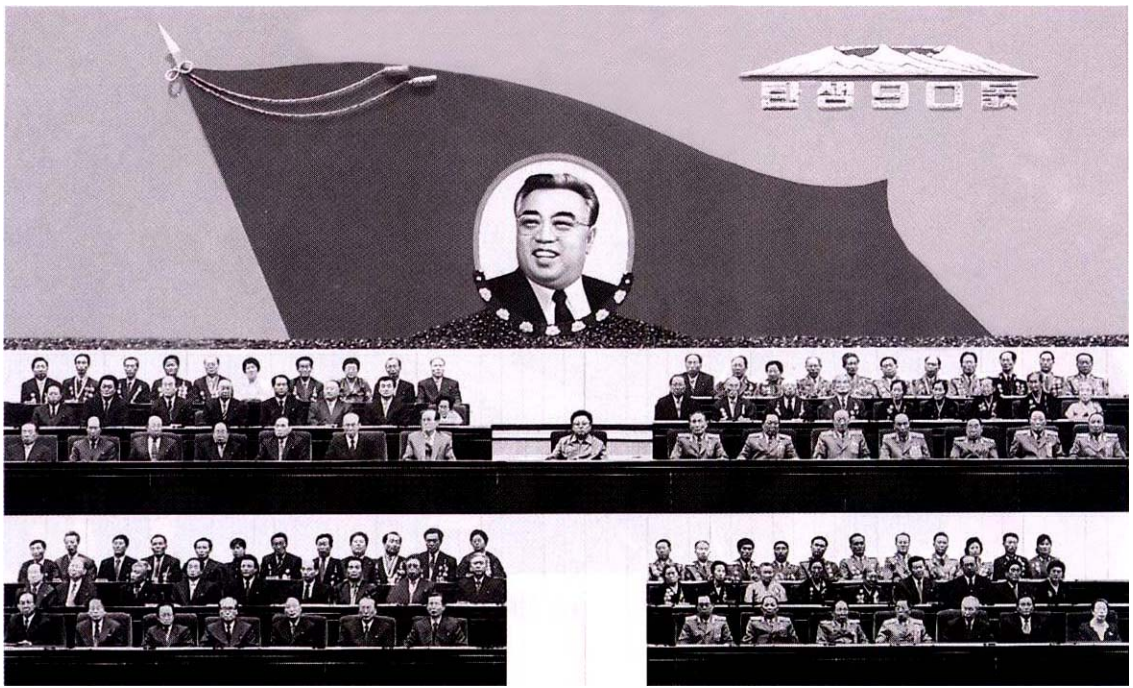


Koreans from different walks of life and foreigners place flower baskets in front of the imposing statue of President Kim Il Sung on Mansu Hill.



Profound respects are paid to President Kim Il Sung at the Kumsusan Memorial Palace.





The national meeting to commemorate the 90th birthday of President Kim Il Sung is held.



A television programme featuring recollections about the President.

The national meeting of the Korean Children's Union.



The youth vanguard pledge allegiance to President Kim Il sung and leader Kim Jong Il.





Foreigners have a meeting at the mourning hall of the Kumsusan Memorial Palace.

A gathering of foreigners in commemoration of the Day of the Sun.



The National Book Exhibition.



The National Fine Arts Exhibition, part of the Pyongyang Fine Arts Festival.



The Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia Exhibition Centre opens, the venue for the 4th Kimilsungia Show.





The festival banner is hoisted.



The opening ceremony.

The participants in the festival march through the streets of Pyongyang.





A scene from the performance by the Art Troupe of Koreans in Japan.



A solo by a French singer.



"Chair piling", an acrobatic feat performed by the Chinese group.

The Folk Dance Company of the Russian Moiseyev State Academy gives a performance.



A dance by the Indian Odissi group.



A picture of the performance by a Mongolian group.





Mass gymnastics and artistic performance “Arirang”.



We Hope the Korean People Always Enjoy a Warm Spring

We, Russian people, have warm feelings for Korean people, and a feeling of respect for President Kim Il Sung.

We deem it a great honor to participate in the April Spring Friendship Art Festival to commemorate the birthday of President Kim Il Sung, the father of socialist Korea and the founder of the DPRK.

Among the works our dancing troupe performed was a piece representing the guerrilla struggle of the Russian people in previous times, and it was highly praised by the audiences.

During the Second World

War, the people of Russia and Korea fought against fascism and imperialism together. Korean revolutionaries supported our struggle with arms, and our people supported their struggle for liberation. Our people know the brave history of Korea's resistance to Japanese imperialism, and highly praise their achievements.

The recent summit between the leaders of the two countries was of great significance in the development of the relationship between Russia and the DPRK.

We are pleased that contact between the two countries is



becoming closer and cooperation in various fields is developing.

We hope that the Korean people, now commemorating April 15th, achieve still greater success in their work and always enjoy a warm spring on their way.

Elena Aleksandrovna Cerevakova, Chief of the Folk Dance Company of the Russian Moiseyev State Academy

The Fragrance of Pyongyang

This is the second time I have participated in the April Spring Friendship Art Festival. As I'd felt at the previous festival, Pyongyang becomes dearer to me the more time I spend here.

I feel as if I were a butterfly flying into a fragrant flower.

Clean streets, beautiful and kind-hearted, courteous people, everything arranged in orderly fashion—all these features grasped my heart.

What I felt at both festivals was that the Korean people, standing against outside pressure, were firmly adhering to and glorifying the way they have chosen to live, and challenging their

economic difficulties with great strength.

I hope that the Korean people can terminate the tragedy of half a century of national division without further delay and achieve national reunification by the concerted efforts of the north and the south.

During our current visit we performed a trick which involved lifting a man without the help of a supporting pole or apparatus.

Through the joint performance, we were again able to witness the high level of Korean acrobatics.

I sincerely hope the cultural exchange between France and



the DPRK will be a starting point for friendly relations between the two peoples.

The fragrance of Pyongyang, alive with the spirit of independence, peace and friendship, left an indelible impression on me.

Jean Claude Boulet, Head of the French magicians group

Explanation of the Juche idea (6)

Socio-Historical Movement Is Creative Movement of Popular Masses

In his classic work *On the Juche Idea* leader Kim Jong Il said, "The socio-historical movement is a creative movement of the popular masses to transform and change nature and society."

Whereas the socio-historical principle of the Juche idea introduced in the previous issue shows the purpose of the social movement conducted by the popular masses and how that purpose is translated into reality, the third socio-historical principle introduced here answers the question of how the social movement is conducted by the popular masses and how their creative activity is strengthened.

The social movement is a movement which is conducted with the popular masses as its subject. Therefore, how the social movement is launched is connected with the question of how the popular masses conduct their activity.

The activity of the popular masses for an independent life assumes a creative nature. Man obtains from nature those things needed for food, clothing and housing, and can live and develop only under a defined social environment. But neither nature nor society is formed so nicely from the first that man can live in an independent manner.

Nature is not supplied with food and dress beforehand, nor is an appropriate social environment conveniently created for man's existence from the beginning.

This compels him to conduct activity to do away with unnecessary, unfavorable and old things and create new ones.

Man not only demands the removal of the old and the creation of the new; he has the creative ability to realize it.

As only man can put forward those independent demands, creative ability is a feature peculiar to him alone. As he has that creative ability, man removes the old, creates the new and reshapes nature and society to meet his demands.

Such a practice as satisfying the demand for existence through creative activity can be found in no species but man.

Accordingly, man conducts the social movement, the movement of man, by purposefully and consciously removing the old and creating the new.

Since the start of human history the popular masses have conducted labor activity without even a single day's rest in order to conquer nature and create material wealth.

Thanks to their creative labor, tools have developed from primitive ones to highly sophisticated robots and the material wealth of society has increased continuously. They have constantly transformed society through their creative activity to reform the old. That struggle has made it possible for human society to develop from primitive society to socialist society, passing through the exploiter society.

Their creative activity to conquer nature and bring about social progress is accompanied by struggle.

Because their creative activity involves removing all the old things that restrict the independence of man and creating the new, it meets with the resistance of the old. All the achievements mankind has attained in the work to conquer nature is associated with the strenuous efforts the popular masses have made to reveal the secret of nature and subordinate

its raw power to man. That is why we call the work to transform nature the struggle with nature.

The work to reshape society accompanies a more serious struggle than the work to conquer nature. The process of replacing an old social system with a new one, and the social emancipation of the popular masses in particular, is a process of fierce class struggle. The forces which seek to preserve an old system will never give up their position of their own accord. The history of mankind shows that there has been no instance of an old social system having dismantled itself of its own volition to allow the implementation of a new social system, nor of the popular masses having won their freedom and emancipation without struggle.

The creative struggle of the popular masses is a process of developing themselves to be more powerful beings.

While transforming nature and developing society, they have increased their creative ability. The history of social productive forces is the history of the growth of man's ability to conquer nature. In the course of efforts to create material wealth, the popular masses have developed their ability to conquer nature. The history of social revolution is the history of the process to strengthen the revolutionary power of the masses so that they can reshape society. Through their revolutionary struggle to overthrow the old social system and build a new, advanced social system, the popular masses have constantly cultivated their revolutionary power. If their creative ability grows, their creative activity is greatly strengthened and the transformation of nature and society is stepped up.

Their creative movement is not in a stalemate but is conducted at a higher level with the development of history.

The highest form of creative movement in human history is a movement to build a society where the independence and creativity of the masses of the people are fully realized, the highest ideal of mankind. The highest degree of their creativity is displayed in this movement.

It is not until their involvement in this movement that the working masses, whose creative activ-

ity has been restrained by the ruling classes during the whole period of antagonistic, class-based societies, become genuine creators who transform nature and society to meet their own will and desire and shape their destiny in an independent manner.

As the social movement is a creative movement of the popular masses, it requires that a creative stance be maintained at all times in developing society and advancing history.

Adopting a creative stance means solving all problems in consonance with reality by relying on the strength of the popular masses. Only when one adheres to such a stance will one be able to successfully solve all problems arising in the development of social history by giving full play to the inexhaustible creative strength of the popular masses and in conformity with the specific conditions of one's own country.

Looking back upon the history of mankind, the domain each generation created and changed was relatively limited in scale. But the wisdom and strength of the popular masses to understand and reshape the world has no limit.

Present developments prove convincingly that the more the creative power of the popular masses grows, the stronger becomes their creative activity and the faster becomes the development of society.

Creation and Struggle

In the Middle Ages, the dark ages, Jordano Buruno was burnt at the stake on the grounds that he said man also inhabited the opposite side of the earth. The creative activity of man to conquer nature is being obstructed by the reactionaries of history even today, the age of civilization, as in the Middle Ages.

John Brown, the leader of a riot of slaves which broke out in the State of Virginia in 1859, said as he stood on the execution ground: I am now convinced that the horrible crimes of this sinful country can be expiated only by blood. Trying to attain this purpose without the shedding of blood is futile.



Kim Un Hwan.

People like to utter the words "good fortune", but it remains a distant dream in most cases.

Good fortune does not come as and when we want it.

I have wished and expected it for scores of years.

Before the country's liberation, my family, like all Koreans, were ground down by poverty.

My parents could only afford to send my elder brother to school in their efforts to deliver our family from poverty.

I began odd jobs to help my mother before I knew much, but I did not give up my hope of an education.

I believed that we would be able to live as well as others if I studied.

In my efforts to learn, I would steal into school behind my brother.

My brother's teacher helped me out of pity. Two years passed and my zeal for learning was undiminished.

I took the decision to leave home, thinking that I would study, find a good job and make my parents happy. In order to earn money, I would get up early in the morning to sell newspapers, covering a section of 40 km, and in the afternoon I worked to earn money. With the money I

Good Fortune

earned I was able to go to evening school.

My experiences caused me to think a great deal: Some people live well with the money exacted from others without doing anything. But many people like me were forced to toil every day.

This doubt of mine was not cleared up even after the country's liberation. US troops landed in south Korea to take the place of the Japanese imperialists, introducing military rule. Pro-Japanese elements in the south became pro-American, and the persecution of the people continued.

During the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950-July 1953) south Korea was liberated by the Korean People's Army and my doubt was removed.

A new life started in the liberated south.

During the temporary retreat of the Korean People's Army, I came to the north of Korea, and after the war I entered Kim Chaek University of Technology, realizing my long-held ambition.

I could not study in south Korea because of a lack of money, but in the north the previously impossible became possible thanks to a state scholarship.

Students from Kim Chaek University of Technology participated in the reconstruction of Pyongyang, which had been destroyed by the US imperialists.

I was fortunate to meet President Kim Il Sung while I worked on the embankment project for the River Taedong.

He shook hands with me without ceremony and appreciated me for my assistance, patting me on the shoulder. Tears streamed down my cheeks.

During the more than 30

years I spent in prison, I never forgot that moment of honour.

The enemies tried to convert me by using my relatives. I declared solemnly to them, "I cannot betray the thankful embrace that enabled me to study. I would die rather than do so!" The enemy renewed their attempts to convert me, saying that if I wrote the word "conversion" on a piece of paper I would be free and happy. Although I could not move, lying like a corpse in a cell wounded all over from the brutal torture I had endured, I could never forget my wife and children. I grew up knowing no happiness as a child, but they enjoyed it now, benefiting from social policies such as free education and free medical care. I could not betray such a great embrace.

I used the enemy's barbarous persecution as a golden opportunity to confirm my faith and purify my conscience.

After 30 years and more in prison I enjoyed another moment of fortune. Leader Kim Jong Il repatriated over 60 unconverted long-term prisoners, including me, to Pyongyang. He made us known throughout the country as patriotic reunification fighters and men of strong faith and will. We were awarded the "National Reunification Prize", allotted the best of apartments, and taken to visit scenic spots with our families.

I am really a lucky man, for I have enjoyed the love of the two great leaders in my life.

I am more than 70 years old now, but I will continue to do my bit for the building of a reunified powerful nation with a revolutionary faith and conscience as a son who has grown in the embrace of the Party.

Morning Stroll

It was one bright morning.

Former unconverted long-term prisoner O Hyong Sik aged 70 is seen strolling along the Taedong riverside together with his 14-year-old granddaughter.

He pauses awhile and glances over the river.

"My dear granddaughter, today I feel more refreshed than ever before," he says to her.

"Grandpa, one of the deep lines across your forehead has gotten smoothed overnight," she says in a cheerful voice, looking up at the red-dish smiling face of her grandfather. Then follows his boisterous laugh.

When he met a reporter on the spot, the old man told him about the morning walk he started for the first time scores of years ago.

He was arrested while setting about on the road of struggle for the country's reunification, the enemy forced him to recant.

However, he could not betray President Kim Il Sung nor could he deny the social system, a precious fruit of the sanguinary struggle, and the creative structures obtained by the sweat of the people.

Therefore he responded with a scornful laugh to the enemy's passing of death sentence on him and remained true to revolutionary principles despite of the enemy's atrocious tortures and persecutions.

One day, he fell down, subjected to torture. It was at peep of day that he came to his senses in the cell.

At that moment, the melody of the National Anthem came into hearing as if in a dream, the melody that resounded in the sky of Pyongyang every morning when he was living there. He got up and began to walk in his cell, slowly dragging his feet hound with manacles.

Since then he took "walking exercise" early in the morning every day, thus strengthening his faith and training his will. In this way he endured hardships in jail for more than 30 years as "a smiling criminal under sentence of death" and "a strolling unconverted long-term prisoner."

Continuing his morning stroll, he

told the reporter that he had been released from prison only when he was over 60 and that he had never failed to take a morning stroll, although he was in a poor health and he felt it difficult to work as a sweeper.

Even when the whirlwind of "theory on the end of socialism" was sweeping across the earth along with the crumbling of socialism in the East European countries, he did not give up his original intention, taking strolls, without missing a single day.

In the year 2000 the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration was adopted and in September the same year he was sent back to the northern half of Korea which he had longed for so earnestly, together with 62 former unconverted long-term prisoners.

After his return to the north he stayed at the Koryo Hotel for a while, as it was designated as temporary lodgings of the former unconverted long-term prisoners. At that time, too, he took a morning exercise every day, but the aftereffect of a disease caught in prison in south Korea gave him pain.

He was checked into a hospital and given sincere medical treatment. Leader Kim Jong Il saw to it that precious tonics were sent to him for the recovery of his health.

That is not all. In recognition of his lifetime devotion to the cause of national reunification he ensured that this old man was held in public esteem as the incarnation of faith and will, was awarded the National Reunification Prize and was provided with a new flat in the Central District in the capital city of Pyongyang and good care was taken to his life.

I must strive to further improve my health. Only when I am in good health, I shall be able to devote the remainder of my life stoutly along the road to the accomplishment of the reunification cause and shall have nothing to repent of, he thought inwardly.

He resumed his walking exercise. At first he covered a short distance and then a long distance. After that, he did another try — running.

The doctor in charge advised him to refrain from excessive exercise. That



O Hyong Sik.

is why he began to take a stroll every morning along the Taedong riverside together with his granddaughter, starting from Tonghung-dong and covering a distance of three kilometers.

In this way he continued his morning stroll for one year and eight months. This morning, too, he got out of the door of his flat wearing a sporting uniform and white canvas shoes on.

Listening to the solemn tune of the National Anthem, he passed before Pyongyang Railway Station and strolled along the riverside promenade lined with weeping willows. A breeze blowing from the river refreshes him in mind and body, enabling him to have his fill of pure air.

His granddaughter and his dear companion said, "The bright morning of Pyongyang brings optimistic life, youthfulness and passion to my grandfather. So my home roars with gay laughter and resounds with charming songs all the time."

Sometimes he visits factories, rural communities or

Kim Il Sung University, his alma mater, and delivers lectures energetically before the workers, farmers, teaching staff and students, his voice ringing throughout the meeting halls. In his lectures he says in an emphatic tone, "Our homeland has a bright future. Confidence in future engenders an indomitable will."

He, together with his granddaughter went as far as a place where the Taedong bridge was in sight and turned his steps homeward when the morning sun rose in all its splendid beauty.





Kim Nam Hyok.

A scientific ideas contest involving students of top senior middle schools across the country was held in Pyongyang in late November last year.

Out of many cleverly conceived items, the science fiction fantasy *Space Conquerors* received especially favourable comment from the judges. Their evaluation of it said: "The writer's idea of space conquest is very good. It is really surprising that his novel is backed up by detailed scientific data. It is suitable for young minds and is fantastic. It is clear from his novel that the writer conducted scientific investigations over and over again and made strenuous efforts."

The novel is now popular among schoolchildren across the country.

The boy who aroused such great interest is Kim Nam Hyok, a 16-year-old student at Pyongyang Tongdaewon Senior Middle School No. 1.

In the preface to his novel, he wrote:

"I never dreamed that I would be able to write a novel, because I am no more than a senior middle-school boy whose knowledge of everything on the earth, that is, nature, society and man, is very poor.

"But I made up my mind to take up my pen. I wanted to write about our future as a scientifically strong nation rather than a literary work, a future which I myself and all other children in the same era, masters of the Information Age, should bring earlier through repeated, deep meditation and strenuous efforts for scientific research."

Outline of Space Conquerors

The heroes of the novel are two 15-year-old boys—Yong Chol, known as "Edison", the king of invention, among his friends, and Myong Ho, who has a fervent spirit of inquiry and always obtains top grades in his studies.

They decide to make an exploration of space during their vacation and set out on a journey, with their

Young Science Fiction Writer

teacher and friends seeing them off. They stop off at the moon. Venus and Mars and, collecting a wide variety of samples for analysis, learn of the achievements made by the scientists of the previous generation in space development.

In the course of this, they are determined to conduct research into the principles of a super high-speed space ship.

On their way back to the earth after their successful space tour they are informed that the artificial earth satellite KP, which is now adrift 10,000 kms away from them, having left its orbit, is set to collide with a large meteorite.

Their collision poses the threat of causing large splinters to pierce through the earth's atmosphere at tremendous speed and fall to the surface.

Defying the threat to their safety, the two boys break the satellite to pieces and save the earth from imminent danger. Having completed the senior middle school course, they pledge to dedicate their lives to the conquest of space.

Determination, Success and Future

In the summer two years ago their teacher had told them about the artificial earth satellite, space velocity and the state of weightlessness during a physics class.

Concluding his lesson, the teacher said to the students:

"Just as there are roads on land and lanes at sea, so there are ways in outer space, too. Many astronomers have conducted painstaking research into this, but their work remains unfinished.

"In order to make outer space a world as ideal for man as earth, we should resolve this outstanding problem. This important task is left to you students, the masters of the future."

His words had a great impact on Nam Hyok.

One day, news reached the school that a national scientific ideas contest would soon be held.

All the pupils were filled with cre-

ative enthusiasm. One resolved to manufacture an up-to-date appliance, another an architectural design based on ultramodern technology.

Nam Hyok made a hold resolution to write a science fiction fantasy.

His friends shook their heads, but his teacher expressed support for his plan and gave him strength.

But things did not go as smoothly as he had hoped.

The writing of such a piece called for a combination of scientific knowledge and literary skill, requiring him to obtain sufficient data and find a lot of time.

After school was over every day, he would head for a library or the Grand People's Study House. Sometimes he met scientists in relevant sectors through the introduction of his teacher. All of them gave him great help.

Through his dedication he got to know about astronomical observatories, the moon, Mars and other planets, and greatly increased his knowledge of physics. He also came to know in detail how space development had started and what successes had been registered so far. He added this information to the fantastic elements he introduced in writing his novel, giving the story an unusual realism.

An unmanned factory, robotization, computerized dwellings, a journey to the moon, stars of the Milky Way becoming extinct owing to the consequences of nuclear war, and giants who have lost their "homes" on account of it...

"Of course, it was no easy matter to write the fiction. But in the course of this I acquired knowledge beyond my expectations and came to have confidence in myself. I have come to know that the day is not far off when the natural resources on the earth will be exploited more effectively by using satellites to good account. Space will be exploited for the betterment of human life," said Nam Hyok.

The eldest and only son of an ordinary office worker, he now cherishes the dream of becoming a space scientist,

His dream is backed up by his taciturn character "and fondness for meditation. and by his strong spirit of inquiry. □

The Driving Force Behind Judo Success

One of the gold medals at the World Judo Championships held in Germany in July last year went to Kye Sun Hui from the DPRK. Kye took the 52kg category in Germany, instead of the 48kg level crown she won at the Atlanta Olympics. The holder of the country's supreme title for athletes, People's Athlete, enjoyed another wave of admiration and praise from judo fans and experts. She has the perfect physical build and technical skills, and looks unlikely to be defeated for years to come. Naturally, people around her talked a lot about the role other coach. As one of them put it, "good coach behind good athlete."

Kye told inquisitive reporters and other people around at the time, "My achievement has been built on my coach's hard work. Ingenious and demanding, he has always given serious and sincere training to us, so that we can win domestic and international events." Her honest remark made her coach the focus of attention.

So what kind of person is the coach who has brought up women judo stars like Kye Sun Hui and Ri Kyong Ok (who won a silver medal at the last world championships)?

His name is Ryu Ju Song. A kind-hearted and sentimental man, he was born in Yokohama, Japan, in Juche 56 (1967). His parents were descendents of the Koreans who were taken across the sea to Japan for forced labour when Korea was under Japan's colonial rule.

His father was a welder and his mother toiled as a kitchen hand at a restaurant. In 1972, refusing to suffer heart-breaking discrimination and oppression any longer, they returned to Korea taking their children with them.

The homeland was, as Ryu put it, "really a motherly bosom that brings the freedom and hope of every member of the nation into full bloom."

Ryu's talent found early blossoming. Influenced by his father's ardor for judo, he began to learn the sport when he was 11. He fought for eight years in the competitive arena, winning the 65kg category at the juvenile judo tournament of socialist countries held in Romania in 1986, and gathered many medals from other international competitions.

Later he became a teacher at the Korean University of Sports and Physical Culture following his study at the university.

He had been teaching judo for several years before he was appointed coach of the women judoists at one of the country's top sports clubs. In order to live up to the country's expectations, something he felt to be a heavy burden, he reminded himself of his own feelings as a competitor.

"Gold medals bring honour to your country, you know. When I hear the National Anthem played and see the national flag raised in honour of our victory at international competitions, I can hardly hold back my tears." This is what Ryu said.

He has done all in his power to fulfill his responsibility, making heavy demands of his trainees.

"It's in no way easy to satisfy the coach in training. And yet we know that we have to obey him, because that's the way to victory," answered one of his students when asked of his work.

Ryu pays attention to making every fighter have a special technical skill to suit their psychological and physical build. Kye Sun Hui's recent acquisition of versa-



Ryu Ju Song.

tile expertise is largely thanks to Ryu's energetic efforts.

Another focus of his aims is to instill a high sense of patriotism in the trainees. During breaks and spare time, he often mixes with his students like a brother, telling them earnestly about the value of the country by relating his or his parents' experiences. He says: "The notion of the motherland is not abstract. It is the ground on which our life unfolds. How beautiful our life is, the life that is always optimistic despite the difficult conditions! You had better cherish the love of all around you. Your parents and friends hope you will become sportswomen who are able to bring gold to the nation. Remember this, and work harder."

Korea's women judoists are now training as hard as ever under Ryu's scrupulous direction, aiming for more glory at the world judo championships to be held in 2003 in Japan.

Ryu received the title of People's Athlete in September last year.

His comfortable apartment stands in Kwangbok Street, one of the showpiece streets of Pyongyang, housing his happy family of four. The eldest of his two sons, Se Il, has already begun his judo career; he goes to a local judo club, following in his father's footsteps.

Collective of Substantial Ability

The Kim Man Yu Hospital in Pyongyang was opened in April Juche 75 (1986). The department of neurosurgery at the hospital deals with diseases of the cerebral and spinal nerves.

The department has nearly 40 employees, including able doctors and young surgeons in their twenties or thirties who have a promising future ahead of them.

Operations on conditions such as spinal tumours and cerebral abscesses are drawing the attention of neurosurgeons in Korea.

In the initial stage the department encountered many difficulties in the treatment of patients for lack of technical skill and experience.

However, the medical staff are now obtaining success in almost all operations, as they have made unabated efforts to improve their skills through constant research, experimentation and practical training.

In recent years good results have been registered in research as this activity has been the focus of the department's attention.

A lot of research papers have been published, including papers on the removal of hematomas, the surgical treatment of epilepsy, orthopedic operations on cranial bones, and surgical treatment of cerebral abscesses. Medical equipment has been newly upgraded, including that needed for acupuncture.

Medical workers here exchange technical know-how and experience with neurosurgeons at home and abroad during the meetings of the Neurological Society and the Medical Society and international medical symposia.

They are obtaining good results by promptly introducing into the treatment of patients what they have achieved in their research work.

The department treats those

patients who have lost almost all their senses or those who are in a critical state as their brains have got hurt.

However, medical workers here have no hesitation in treating the patients.

An incident that happened some time ago illustrates the department's dedication.

A middle-aged worker at Pyongyang Bus Company No.2 was carried to the department by car after suffering an injury to his brain.

Emergency treatment was given and an urgent consultative meeting of medical staff took place.

The patient was in a critical condition, so no one expressed his opinion readily. After a while, the head of the

had never used before.

Data from tests performed on the patient and scans of the affected part of the brain were brought together and simulated operations were conducted several times before a first and then second operation were performed on the patient.

The surgery proved successful. After the operation, doctors and nurses tended the patient constantly, always remaining at the side of his bed.

The patient was restored to health in 40 days and was able to return to his workplace.

Since his discharge from the hospital he has been working hard in good health trying to repay his debt of gratitude to the country's benevolent social sys



Neurosurgeons show sincere care for their patients.

head of the department said in a low, powerful voice.

"The condition of the patient is critical, but we must save his life unconditionally and without fail."

A serious discussion ensued and a decision was taken to apply a new method of operation which the doctors of the department

tem.

The above story is just one example of the work of the department.

Fully aware of their duty and role in embodying the belief in our social system, all the staff here are devoting themselves entirely to the treatment of patients.

Joy on the River Taedong

Cold winter is over and spring has come, thus presenting a new spectacle along the River Taedong, which flows through the city of Pyongyang.

People going out to enjoy the spring scenery are heading for the riverside in an endless stream. There they find flowers of various kinds are in full bloom and the light green branches of the weeping willows are drooping over the water. Anglers absorbed in catching fish with their hooks and rods lend added charm to the natural scenery.

Among them is Kim Yong Son, an old man living in Tongan-dong, Central District.

He is a junior official of the Central District Angling Society.

The angling society is a social organization which aims to promote the protection of the country's fish stocks, the enhancement of the natural environment, and the cultural life of the working people. It is an affiliated organization of the Central Committee of the Korean Environmental Conservation Union.

It is formed of anglers who are interested in the conservation of nature, observe the law and regulations of the state voluntarily and fish only for pleasure.

While working on this basis, the members of the association educate lawbreakers not to do misdeeds again when they are caught fishing illegally.

The society has its central committee in Pyongyang, with its provincial committees in seven provinces and 60 primary committees or primary organizations in cities and counties.

All citizens who desire membership of the society are eligible for admission, including those who are drawing different kinds of pensions: old-age, disability, and so on.

Yong Son, who worked as a researcher at the Environmental Protection Research Institute until he reached the age of 65, became a member of the associa-

tion as soon as he began life as a pensioner.

A keen angler, he is faithfully discharging his duty as a member of the society.

Rim Jong Hwan, a worker at the Tonggu Public Building Construction Company, joined the angling society and has become an exemplary member who dresses himself neatly to suit the scenic beauty of the River Taedong and catches fish in accordance with the regulations.

Well aware of the seasonal characteristics of the fish that inhabit the River Taedong, he has invented a device which is highly sensitive to the depth of the line and the size of fish, thus hooking up more of fish.

On several occasions he has appeared on the podium to introduce his experience at meetings organized by the society, and he has also ranked among the best anglers in many fishing competitions.

Kim Mu Song is another of the anglers on the Taedong riverside.

He is a 54-year-old pensioner who has suffered from digestive problems for many years.

After reading the book *Angling and Health* he took up the hobby. He was fortunate enough to land several carp during his first attempt. So he prepared hot carp soup for himself and ate it with gusto. After taking hot carp soup several times he felt as if he had not previously suffered

from the digestive trouble.

To the joy of his family and friends, his impetuous disposition has been mitigated considerably and his condition is now gradually disappearing.

It will not be long before he goes back to work.

Mu Song has made up his mind to work at a company which breeds fry and releases them into the River Taedong.

He is just one of the innumerable people who can be seen fishing along the River Taedong. Their common interest is matched by a common sense of joy.

This results from the happiness that comes from living in a benevolent society where all the natural resources of the country contribute to the well-being of the people.

Thanks to these angling fans, the attractive spectacle presented along the River Taedong is becoming more conspicuous day by day. 



The Motherland to Which He Returned in His Last Years

(Continued from the previous issue)

3. Spiritual Language "With a Single Heart"

*Who gave us this bliss of
today?*

*It is the Workers' Party, it is
our leader.*

*Along the road shown by
Marshal Kim Il Sung*

We'll go with a single heart

Ready to lay down our lives.

This is the text of one of the songs with which Choe Tok Sin became familiar after his arrival in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

When he visited his native village his 80-year-old maternal aunt sang the song "With a Single Heart" with tears in her eyes. The song left a deep lingering effect on him.

At first he did not listen closely to the song, but its words became indelibly engraved on his mind, and with time they took on a new meaning.

In Pyongyang he saw with his own eyes the functions held in celebration of the 40th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial rule.

A joyful evening of entertainment took place at Kim Il Sung Square, followed by a torchlight parade.

Tens of thousands of young people formed the letters "40th anniversary of the country's liberation" on the spacious square, with their flaming torches, accompanied by a solemn song sung by a chorus of hundreds.

Just at that moment the first rank of the paraders to leave the Arch of Triumph entered the square with an open-topped car leading the way. Aboard the car were youth and students who were holding high a portrait of the great leader President Kim Il Sung and the banner of the Workers' Party of Korea. Behind the car was an endless stream of paraders carrying

tens of thousands of torches.

Veteran fighters of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and heroes of the Fatherland Liberation War marched shoulder to shoulder with the third and fourth generations of the revolution. All the paraders were marching in step and in regular order, loudly shouting the slogan "Let us take over the Juche revolutionary cause and carry it forward throughout generations to come", holding their flaming torches high as one man.

Shouts of hurrah burst forth and a large sickle, a hammer and a writing brush were formed by the torchlights at the square, creating a scene so bright. It seemed to light up all the land on the globe.

The columns then formed the words "Single-hearted unity" with their torches, marching past the rostrum.

At that moment shouts of "Long live for single-hearted unity!" shook the earth and sky.

Looking at the words "Single-hearted unity", formed over the heads of the paraders, Choe saw the unity, cohesion and the indefatigable spirit of the Korean people, who were rallied closely behind President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il with one mind and one will.

It was a moving moment for him.

No force on earth can be a match for this great unity, a unity in which the leader and the popular masses are closely bonded in both mind and spirit, he thought.

He felt that this great strength had enabled the DPRK to demonstrate its national dignity, standing up to the "superpower", the United States, and to build a peerless socialist power by relying not on foreign assistance and loans, but on its own intelligence and natural resources.

He was immersed deeper and deeper in thought.

Formerly he had thought that each and every person in a society would inevitably differ not only in personality and individual qualities, and special quality but also in interests, way of thinking and aspiration.

The single-hearted unity achieved in the DPRK was something that could not be seen in any era and in any country in the East and the West. That was why, witnessing this great reality, he could not be calm his feelings.

The scene of the paraders marching in fine array, filling the spacious square, floated before his eyes.

Looking up to President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il on the rostrum and unanimously shouting hurrah at the top of their voices, all the paraders were shedding tears of gratitude, joy and happiness.

Tears were also glistening in the eyes of President

Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il as they responded to the enthusiastic cheers.

Seeing this surprising spectacle, Choe put his handkerchief to the corner of his eyes, which had blurred with tears.

Tears are a sign of strong emotion and reflect the obligation and conscience of the people. He believed that the tears the popular masses shed, looking up to their leader, expressed their deep emotion and gratitude for the boundless favours and the immeasurable solicitude the leader showed for them but also their happiness, their trust in and adoration for the leader to whom they entrusted their destinies and whom they followed.

When he thought of this, the song "With a Single Heart" returned to his mind, the song which everyone living in the DPRK loves to sing regardless of whether he is a worker, a farmer, a soldier or an intellectual.

With a Single Heart—this was the unanimous sentiment, idea and will of all the Koreans who were resolved to follow President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il with complete devotion.

At factories, rural communities, miners' settlements, in remote and secluded places among the mountains and all other places he visited he could see people who were working faithfully and conscientiously and sacrificing even their lives for the country and the collective without hesitation. They held President Kim Il Sung in high esteem as their father, and their hearts were afire with the determination to remain loyal to him with a single heart.

He reached the following conclusion:

The people of the north are all living happily, keeping the spiritual language in their hearts, "With a Single Heart", as they are under the outstanding leader.

"With a Single Heart" is the common spiritual language engraved on their minds, their spiritual mainstay!

He was struck with wonder when he discovered this.

From his early years, he had heard too much of "unity" and "single-heartedness" often spoken by public-spirited men, beating their breasts with tearful eyes and calling upon others to regain their country from the Japanese imperialists.

In South Manchuria alone there had been more than 20 different groups seeking Korea's independence in the period before and after the March First Independence Movement of Korea, including the Association of Koreans, the Thaeguk Association, the War-fund Raising Association, and the Korean Independence Youth Association.

These army units and organizations were all formed with one purpose—the independence of Korea—and their forces were not small. But they were antagonistic and hostile to each other, sticking uncompromisingly to their own beliefs. Their differences had gone so far as to give rise to armed conflicts and bloodshed, although

they paid lip service to "unity".

After seeing the marks of fratricidal conflict in the wilderness of a foreign land, those worrying over the country lamented bitterly again, beating their breasts. Yet none of them could achieve "unity" and "single-heartedness".

The great reality of single-hearted unity Choe witnessed in the DPRK made him look back upon his past and draw a due lesson at last, a lesson he should have already learned.

What is the lesson left by the past history of our nation full of tribulations, the history in which our nation was torn asunder owing to divergent ideologies and assertions? It is that our nation lacked a distinguished leader, a center of unity!

He shouted inwardly like this. He regretted the fact that he had failed to visit Mt. Paektu before, the mountain which united the minds of his fellow countrymen, the members of our nation.

A sense of relief suddenly enveloped him, for he had finally understood the reason of life, the ethics of genuine patriotism he had long been groping for.

Upholding the great President Kim Il Sung is the highest expression of patriotism!

Telling himself this, he realized that the spiritual language, "With a Single Heart", common to

all Koreans, was the true, patriotic language.

The patriotic language, "With a Single Heart"—herein lies genuine patriotic ethics. This he found out at long last.

He came to the DPRK, "a new world", after wandering from place to place all his life. Finally he understood the reason for being.

There is a saying that man spends his whole life learning how to live. It seemed to him that this saying had been coined with him in mind.

He could not resist the impulse to keep step with the people of his native village in this most purified society free from all sorts of evils and baneful influences of the world, in this land of bliss where mountains, streams and people are fresh and beautiful.

But the knowledge that he could not start his life over again caused pain in his heart.

However, he could not lay the blame upon others. He calmly raised his head and looked up at the sky.

Divine man, do you really exist? If so, look down, lowering your head, and let me put an end to my sins and start my life afresh, please. May you permit the earnest wish of Choe Tok Sin!...

Tears rolled down his cheeks.

(To be continued in the next issue)



Choe Tok Sin and his wife on top of Mt. Paektu.

Great Attention Paid to the Preservation of Biodiversity

On the occasion of the Day of International Biodiversity, a Korea Today reporter interviewed O Myong Sok, Associate Professor and Master of Science of the Control Committee of the Korean Environmental Conservation Union and vice chairman of the Animal Preservation Association.

Question: May 22 is the Day of International Biodiversity. Global attention is now focused on environmental issues, a key part of which is the preservation of the planet's biological diversity. The day reflects this social requirement of our age, I think.

Could you tell me how the day came into being and what concerns the international community shows in terms of the day?

Answer: As you said, environmental issues are now of great importance. They represent what is called a time bomb threatening the earth. This is why mankind is joining forces to find solutions.

Let's go back through the relevant history.

At the 1987 UN General Assembly the participants listened to and discussed the report "The Future of the Earth and Our Destinies" written and presented by the World Committee for the Environment and Development, the chairperson of which was then the Norwegian premier Brundtland, a talented and well-informed woman. It made a strong appeal for efforts to solve environmental problems. Since then, the environmental protection, which had been regarded as a matter of little importance, has become an urgent matter of the greatest importance to all mankind, making many countries pay close attention to it.

In June 1992 Rio de Janeiro in Brazil hosted the 14-day UN Conference on the Environment and Development, which was also called the global summit on the environment. It was divided into two stages; a general discussion and the summit itself. There was heated debate concerning the environment and development, resulting in the adoption of the Rio Declaration, a comprehensive action plan, and a climate treaty and a biodiversity protection treaty were also concluded. The DPRK signed all of these agreements.

The 54th session of the UN General Assembly, held in 2000, defined May 22, the day the biodiversity protection treaty was agreed, as the Day of International Biodiversity.

The day was celebrated in style last year to mark the first year of the 21st century.

Q: What has the DPRK, a signatory to the treaty, done in practice to implement it?

A: First of all, we established the relevant legal framework, because every activity must be based on a legal guarantee.

Article 57, Chapter 3 of the DPRK Socialist Constitution, adopted in September Juche 87 (1998), stipulates that "the state shall, before planning production, take measures to protect the environment, preserve and foster the natural environment, and prevent environmental contamination."

Relevant laws were adopted, coming into effect before and after the adoption of the new constitution: the Forestry Law in December Juche 81 (1992), the Fisheries Law in January Juche 84 (1995), the Water Resources

Law and the Sea Contamination Prevention Law in June and October Juche 86 (1997), and the Land and Environment Regulations, the Useful Animal Protection Law and the Fish Culture Law in May, November and December Juche 87 (1998) respectively.

These laws have enabled us to positively protect and increase the country's ecological resources.

Q: Could you give me more details of what has been done in practice to implement the treaty?

A: Several years ago our country submitted the "DPRK's strategy and action plan for its biodiversity" to the UN. It has also maintained close contact with the Global Environment Fund.

As part of a three-year contract it helps us protect the biodiversity of Mt. Myohyang. We are also engaged in vigorous bilateral cooperation and exchange with neighbouring countries such as China and Russia.

The state, too, shows great concern for the protection of the environment. It pays primary attention to improving public awareness through the regular education network: an example of this is that university and college students are taught environmental protection science.

Social organizations are no exceptions.

The youth league arranges the education of league members and Children's Union members in the matter, and is conducting a campaign to create youth forests and Children's Union forests.

Our union undertakes various educational campaigns with the support of the mass media.

As you know, the state designates some parts of spring and

autumn every year as periods of general mobilization for land management. During these periods, all the people turn out to plant trees on mountains and in fields. This spring, too, as you must know, many flower trees and other trees were planted in order to implement the state's policy of improving the environment.

Furthermore, the state has invested heavily in measures to protect animals whose species are

on the brink of extinction. Musk roe deer, *Hydropotes inermis* Swinhoe (a kind of deer), musk deer and pheasant breeding centers have appeared in many places, making it possible to artificially multiply these animals and then release them into the wild. For example, lots of *Hydropotes inermis* Swinhoe, which inhabit only some parts of the area along the lower part of Yangtze River and the region on

the Korean west coast, have been bred and set free. They have already spread as far as Ryanggang Province in the northern part of the DPRK.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the biodiversity protection treaty.

We will continue to protect and increase the nation's biodiversity for the future of the planet and the preservation of the beauty of nature.



Greeting the International Day of the Family

May 15 is the International Day of the Family.

Greeting the day, the Korea Today expresses its gratitude to the officials of the International Planned Parenthood Federation for their efforts to defend the rights of women and to improve reproductive health around the world.

Humanity desires a harmonious, happy family and an independent life.

The IPPF thinks that the problems of women are not simply problems related to family, but also social, political and economic problems.

Many women the world over suffer from a lack of political rights and social inequality. The phenomena of broken families, producing abandoned children, and sexual violence toward women and sexually transmitted diseases, such as AIDs, still prevail in the world. In response, the IPPF has advanced a new strategy called reproductive health.

The strategy is aimed at encouraging women's involvement in social activities, improving men's awareness of reproductive health, involving men in

family planning and putting an end to sexual violence.

Another aim is to allow women enjoy a healthy social, physical and mental life on an equal footing with men.

The Korean Family Planning & Maternal and Child Health Association was founded on January 25, 1990, to implement the policy of the DPRK government of increasing the population and ensuring the health of infants and their mothers. KFP & MCHA joined the IPPF as its national affiliate in 1995.

Since its foundation, the association has made great achievements by carrying out the DPRK's policy in close cooperation with the IPPF, further demonstrating the vitality of the Law on Sex Equality which was passed in 1946 by the government of the DPRK.

Its mission is to conduct vigorous activities to provide service, information, and education for the promotion of the people's reproductive health.

Since 1993 it has actively taken part in carrying out plans, including the operation of family planning clinics, the operation of

the medical information team for women in rural areas, and reproductive health services through the family planning clinics.

It now has 11 family-planning clinics, 7 medical service teams and 100 full-time officials.

It has recently planned the expansion of family-planning services from the cities to rural areas, and has been giving wide publicity to family planning among the population and providing them with reproductive health services.

Especially, to improve the awareness of men to the reproductive health, it produced a number of posters, such as, "Reliable Husband" and "Happy Family"; witty talks "Woman is a flower" and "Ttolttori and Samnyo", and several performance groups are performing educational plays produced by the association.

The association marks International Day of the Family every year by organizing parties and lectures throughout the country.

It plans to step up its activities by paying ever-closer attention to the problems of the family, the basis of Korean society.



Pohyon Temple on Celebrated Mt. Myohyang

We believers in Buddhism are now leading a devout life to our hearts' content under the boundless care of President Kim Il Sung and leader Kim Jong Il.

Since the country's liberation from Japanese colonial rule (August 15, 1945), the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has guaranteed under law the freedom of religious belief.

More than 40 years have passed since I began to live a Buddhist life in the warm embrace of the Sun under our benevolent socialist system.

During this period I have been able to feel the true worth of life in implementing the teachings of Buddha as a religious man.

The socialist system of our country enables Buddhists to realize deliverance from the "hardships of life" in real life.

Article 68, Chapter 5, of the DPRK's constitution states that citizens have freedom of religious belief and that this right is ensured by permission for the construction of religious buildings and the holding of religious ceremonies.

This is the DPRK government's consistent Juche-oriented view and its policy concerning religion.

It can be said that the history of Pohyon Temple following the country's liberation and the ascetic practices of the Buddhists today are the result of the correct religious policy of the DPRK government.

The large Pohyon Temple on the celebrated Mt. Myohyang is a precious cultural asset of the DPRK. It was built at the beginning of the 11th century (1042) in the period of Koryo and originally consisted of 24 buildings (243 kan) (a kan is equal to a space of seven feet square).

At first, it was a temple of the Kyojong religious sect with Hwaomjong, a school of Buddhism, as its tenet. It later became a temple with Jogyejong (Sonjong), another school of Buddhism, as its tenet.

At present more than 10 buildings, including the Taeung and Kwanum Halls and the Manse Pavilion as well as a pagoda and tombstones, exist in the main area of the temple. Preserved in the temple is a complete collection of Buddhist scriptures printed from 80,000 wooden blocks (6,793 volumes), held at Hapchon Haein Temple, forming a library of Buddhist scriptures of global significance for the printing technology used.

The area around the temple is noted for its beauty, with old buildings such as Sangwonam, Chuksongjon, Pulyongam and Habiroam on the mountain blending well with the natural scenery.

The main area of the temple is surrounded by

Chongryong, Paekho and Ryongju peaks and Mt. Ami, resembling a folding screen. The thick forests and many different kinds of flowers in full bloom add charm to the setting.

The position of the three kinds of po (treasure) is very high in the temple.

At the time of the Imjin Patriotic War against Japanese invasion (1592-1598), some Buddhist relics were transferred to Pohyon Temple from Ryangsan Thongdo Temple, a temple to build the Sokkasejon Kungol pagoda.

The Pohyon Temple is the place where Sosandae-sa (1520-1604), a well-known monk and a patriotic-minded leader of the warrior-monks of the 16th century, spent the latter half of his life and where Ho Paek Tang and other patriotic-minded leaders of warrior-monks were produced at the time of aggression by the Later Jin.

After the country's liberation, the DPRK government adopted a progressive religious policy. It did not interfere in the religious life of individuals, nor did it persecute them, no matter what a religion they believed in. This was based on the belief that religion was a matter of the personal faith and human rights.

Large repairs are being made to temples at state expense, and the money believers give as an "offering" is used for the maintenance of the temples and the living expenses of the monks.

During the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950-July 1953), 14 buildings, including the Taeung Hall, the main building of Pohyon Temple, and more than 7,400 relics were reduced to ashes owing to US air strikes.

The DPRK government saw to it that the reconstruction of national assets, destroyed during US air raids was undertaken. As a result, the Taeung Hall and the Manse Pavilion have been restored to their original state.

The Pirojana, Sokkayorae and Amithayorae Buddhist images have been laid in state and the images of Munsu and Pohyon Bodhisattvas have been enshrined in the Taeung Hall. Added to this, large repairs on Buddhist hermitages on the mountain have been carried out. Later, in the 1980s, the Archives of the 80,000 Blocks of the Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures were built. Auxiliary buildings such as the Kilsang Pavilion have been renovated and the most significant buildings at the temple, from the Joje Gate, the Haethal Gate, the Chonwang Gate and the Manse Pavilion to the Taeung Hall, as well as the Kwanum Hall and the belfry

of the Rongsan Hall, have been made sites of historical interest and sites for the practice of religion. They are surrounded by forests of fir and pine-nut trees covering a space of tens of thousands of square metres where flowers come into bloom all the year round.

Today the Buddhist priests here, including the believers and me, continue our ascetic practices of combining religious rites, the study of Buddhist scriptures and labour in today's earthly paradise. At the same time, we are taking an active part in the work to strengthen the bonds of friendship with the Buddhists of the world.

The frequency of visits to our temple by people from the five continents is rising with every passing day.

Our monks and I have met Buddhist leaders and visited holy places of Buddhism and famous temples on tours of China and Buddhist countries in Southeast Asia.

I have been granted the special favour of meeting President Kim Il Sung and leader Kim Jong Il on several occasions and am leading the most worthwhile life under their loving care.

Choe Hyon Min
head priest of Pohyon Temple, DPRK



**The 13-storeyed octagonal pagoda at
Mt. Myohyang.**

Exhibition of DPRK Stamps Tours China

Marking the mutual visits of the leaders of Korea and China, and the anniversary of President Kim Il Sung's birth and leader Kim Jong Il's birthday, the 2002 China-tour exhibition of DPRK stamps recently opened in Beijing.

On the front wall of hall used for the opening ceremony was a photo of leader Kim Jong Il meeting President Jiang Zemin of China.

The vice-president of the national committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and people of all social strata attended the ceremony.

The DPRK's ambassador to China and the officials of the embassy were also invited.

The chairman of the National Philatelic Association of China said that the current exhibition would run through the birthdays of President Kim Il Sung and leader Kim Jong Il, and extended his warm congratulations to the Korean people.

He added that China and Korea are friendly socialist neighbours whose rivers and mountains are related, saying that the Sino-Korea friendship, which was established by the first generation of revolutionaries, including Chairman Mao Zedong and President Kim Il Sung, has been further developed by the recent visits of the leaders of the two countries. He explained that the exhibition would introduce the successes the Korean people have achieved in their struggle for their independence and liberty of the country, the socialist revolution and construction, and the cause of peaceful reunification.

The Korean stamps, he continued, have a wide range of themes, ideological values, artistic merit and a rich variety of designs. They were also domestically printed, he added.

He went on to say, "The DPRK has produced the largest number of China-related stamps of all foreign countries. This shows the Koreans' feeling of friendship towards the Chinese people and will be recorded forever in the annals of Sino-DPRK friendship, as well as world philatelic history. I hope that the exhibition will contribute to the deepening of the Sino-DPRK friendship."

After a performance by local children, the participants looked round the stamps on display.

The exhibition subsequently toured the large cities of China over a period of several months, strengthening the relationship between the two countries.

The Poet Killed for His Righteous Compositions

Kwon Phil (1569-1612) was an honest and morally upright poet.

He lived through the Imjin Patriotic War against Japanese Invasion (1592-1598) in his twenties and died at the age of 43. In his lifetime he worried over the destiny of his country, writing poetry which exposed and satirized the depravity of the feudal rulers.

His poem "I Recite a Poem on Horseback", written during the Imjin Patriotic War, illustrates how ardent his patriotism was,

*Our country is now in difficulty,
But there is no veteran minister in
the royal court.
Battles persist in the Ryongnam
area
The people of Kwanbuk also suffer
hardships
Everyone is sore at heart and full of
rancour.
Nowhere are people free from
worries.
Reciting the old poem I composed
on a way to the
battlefield,
I wet the collar of my coat with hot
tears.*

As a result of his concerns over the governance of the country, he wrote many satirical poems denouncing the rulers' erroneous management of state affairs and their wielding of power.

One day he was entertained with several cups of wine at a peddler's inn. Having become mellow with drink, he lay on the floor of the drawing room for a while. Suddenly there was a stir in the room and the innkeeper hurriedly rushed in and began kicking Kwon, told him to wake up at once.

"Munchanggong has come. Get up quickly, please."

Ryu Hui Phun, a younger brother of the queen, was called by the name of Munchanggong. He wielded great power, because of his close links with King Kwanghaegun, who reigned from 1609 to 1623. No one dared turn upon him, fearful of his authority and outrageous behaviour. This caused him to do all sorts of evil deeds, acting

as if he were the ruler of the world. Not surprisingly, everyone hated him.

When Kwon thought of this, the effect of the alcohol inside him wore off immediately. But he could not repress his anger at the behaviour of the innkeeper for having kicked him upset, by the arrival of Munchanggong. So he remained lying on the floor on purpose, pretending to remain asleep.

Unable to wake him up, the innkeeper hurriedly left the room and ushered Munchanggong in, bowing so deeply that his nose almost touched the tip of his toes.

When Munchanggong entered the room, escorted by the innkeeper, Kwon Phil shouted aloud, glaring at him with angry eyes as he lay stretched out in the middle of the room.

"Are you Munchanggong? Living in splendour, you have reduced the state to a miserable condition. If the country is ruined your family will also go to ruin. You rascal, do you think your neck will remain safe?"

Though he was scolded severely by Kwon Phil, he could not respond. His face turned as red as a beetroot.

He could not but return home,

after experiencing the agony of shame.

But he was a vicious person by nature. Gritting his teeth, he burned with thoughts of revenge toward Kwon.

"You scoundrel Kwon Phil! You will see!" he muttered to himself.

Just as expected, when Kwon wrote the poem "Willows in the Royal Court", Munchanggong tried to have him executed on a charge of treason, saying that the poem brought disgrace to his clan. The poem was a scathing satire directed at the wrongdoings of Ryu and his clan who were abusing their position, counting on the support of King Kwanghaegun.

But the attempt to have Kwon charged with treason failed.

Frustrated by their lack of success, Ryu and his followers decided to use a more devious method to silence Kwon. They saw to it that he was ordered into exile by the king.

But this was not enough. On the night of his planned departure from Seoul, Kwon was assassinated.

Kwon Phil was cruelly murdered for the simple reason that he took up his writing brush of justice and unhesitatingly wrote poems lashing out at tyranny and treachery. □



By the Nation's Concerted Efforts

All the Korean people are now filled with an ardent desire for the independent reunification of Korea. They are confident it will be achieved.

The joint editorial of *Rodong Sinmun*, the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, *Josonin-mingun*, the newspaper of the Korean People's Army, and Chongnyon Jonwi, the organ of the Central Committee of the Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League, published on the first day of the new year, stressed that the shortcut to reunification lies in respecting the basic spirit of the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration and embodying it correctly.

The June 15 declaration is an appeal for the independent reunification of Korea and a declaration for great national unity which solemnly states that the reunification issue should be solved independently by the concerted efforts of the Korean people, its masters.

The kernel of the joint declaration is that reunification will be achieved by the concerted efforts of the Korean nation, the driving force for national reunification, rejecting any foreign intervention.

Its basic spirit reflects the demands and the interests of the Korean nation, present developments in Korea, and the essence and character of the Korean reunification issue, and clearly indicates the way of achieving Korean reunification at the earliest possible date.

National reunification is an internal affair of the Korean nation that concerns the sovereignty of the nation. No foreign forces have the right to interfere in it.

The struggle of the Korean people to reunify the country is, in essence, a struggle against domination and subjugation by

foreign forces in order to realize national sovereignty. Korea has a 5,000-year-long history, and its people have lived on the same land as a homogeneous nation.

Today the Korean people are united in their desire to live independently in a reunified country as a single nation.

If the United States had not occupied south Korea, Korea would not have been divided into two parts, and if the US had not hampered the reunification of Korea, the Koreans would have reunified their country long ago.

Foreign forces are the author of the division of the Korean nation and the hinderer of Korean reunification.

The country's reunification can never be achieved by relying on foreign forces. It must be achieved by the strength of the Korean nation itself.

The Korean nation's history of division and the history of the reunification movement of more than half a century have shown that national independence alone will bring about reunification and national prosperity.

The Korean people have been waging an unremitting struggle to reunify their country. However, their struggle has not yet been crowned with success. This is entirely due to the obstructive maneuvers of foreign forces who do not want to see Korean reunification achieved. Their criminal intention is to profit from the continued partition of the Korean nation.

The history of north-south dialogue has shown that no matter how good an agreement has been reached on the reunification issue, it is reduced to a worthless sheet of paper if our people rely on outside forces.

What is desired by the Korean nation is to achieve independent reunification.

However, vicious moves against national unity and independent reunification have recently been made in south Korea by anti-reunification forces acting against the will and endeavours of the Korean nation. They have resorted to anti-national, anti-reunification moves, while continuing their



Koreans from both the north and south of Korea and abroad march with a burning desire for reunification.

provocative behaviour toward their fellow countrymen, describing them as "the main enemy", in collusion with foreign forces.

They have shipped weapons into south Korea without letup and openly suppressed the democratic forces campaigning for the country's reunification and other patriotic people using the National Security Law, a draconian law preventing reunification activities.

Owing to such moves made in league with foreign forces, rela-

tions between the north and the south of Korea have reached a grave state, and the situation is deteriorating day by day.

It is clear that if the anti-national, anti-reunification acts in the south are tolerated or overlooked, even more serious obstacles and difficulties will be created on the road to the independent reunification of Korea and national disaster may be brought upon its people.

The ideas and attitudes of the

era of confrontation still exist in south Korea, even today when it has been declared that both governments strive to reunify the country by the concerted efforts of the nation. This is abnormal in every respect.

The cause of independent reunification is now experiencing many difficulties. However, the Korean nation is optimistic about its future and is filled with faith in certain victory.

Kim Il Sa

Misguided Adventure

The United States is keying up tension on the Korean peninsula, endangering peace.

The Bush administration declared this year the "year of war".

Elated at the near-conclusion of the Afghan war, the US is trying to expand its aggressive war to other regions, spreading the rumour that its next target may be north Korea. This suggests that the US is going to make the Korean peninsula the new arena of war.

The US hawks are stubbornly clinging to their propaganda about the "threat from north Korea" in order to create a pretext to ignite a war. Specifically, it cites the "nuclear and missile threat" from north Korea and its "conventional arms cut."

The US possesses the greatest number of nuclear bombs and missiles in the world. It has no qualms about achieving world domination by recourse to these weapons.

In reality, the US poses the greatest nuclear and missile threat.

Nevertheless, the US is putting spurs to the establishment of the missile defence system on the plea of the supposed missile threat from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It is gangster-like, indeed. The missile defence system is part of a dangerous nuclear war

plan aimed to realize its ambition for world domination through missile attacks against other countries.

The missile defence system of the US regards the DPRK as a major target. The US is trying to deploy radar to allow the interception of missiles, the key element of the system, in south Korea. This means that the reckless plan of the US to involve south Korea in the missile defence system and stifle the DPRK is entering the stage of practical implementation. What is worse, the US is calling for a cut in the number of conventional weapons possessed by the DPRK. Yet the US, in attacking posture, is deploying huge quantities of military equipment, including nuclear weapons against the DPRK.

This is part of a brazenfaced attempt to disarm the DPRK and swallow it up at any moment. The hostile policy of the US toward Korea and its moves to isolate and stifle the country are keying up tension on the Korean peninsula and increasing the danger of war.

Notably, US president George Bush's remark of the "axis of evils", pointed to the DPRK, is infuriating the Korean people.

Reality shows that peace on the Korean peninsula is gravely endangered by the US. Owing to the hard-line Korea policy of the

US, relations between the north and south, which had made good progress, have become strained and a brake has been put on the fulfillment of the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration. The US regarded the process of reconciliation to be a threat to its strategy of dominating the Korean peninsula. Hence it is raising tensions to aggravate north-south relations and perpetuate division.

The Korean people will not allow the destiny of the nation to be toyed with to meet the strategic interests of the US.

The US is the biggest obstacle to Korean reunification, the uppermost desire of the Korean nation, and the greatest threat to peace. The south Korean people have recognized this through experience.

The Washington Post commented: A large proportion of the south Korean people believe that the crisis on the Korean peninsula has been created by the United States rather than by north Korea.

Voices calling for the pullout of the US troops, the obstacle to reunification and root-cause of conflict, are raised higher with each passing day in south Korea.

If the US chooses the road of war to swallow the whole of Korea by force of arms, talking about the so-called "threat", it will be a misguided adventure bringing disaster to the US itself.

A Liar Who Deceives and Ridicules

A professor of political science at the Columbia University in the US recently mocked the man in power in Japan as a mere talker. The professor, a long-time scholar of Japanese affairs, used a special lecture on Japan's politics to condemn the present leader of Japan for doing nothing of note since taking office, and said, "He pays no special attention to the economy." He had good reason to criticize the lack of action, for the Japanese economy is now in a depression.

The Japanese ruler certainly deserves to be called a mere talker.

He had promised as he was taking office that he would direct primary efforts to boosting the country's stalling economy. Subsequently, however, he has broken this pledge, discarding it like a worn-out shoe.

Much criticism has been directed at his choice of activities since he came to power.

As soon as he held the reins of power he declared that he would pay a visit to Yasukuni Shrine, a decision that caused many troubles at that time. Despite strong opposition at home and abroad, this was a promise that he carried out.

At the same time as he took office, discussion on changing the "Peace Constitution" into a war constitution was under way in Japan. In the wake of the September 11 attack against the US, the Japanese authorities made serious moves to turn Japan into a military power once again and prepare for overseas aggression. Examples of this policy change include

the adoption of the "anti-terrorism special law" and the amendment of the "UN peace-keeping activities cooperation act".

The SDF warships, flying Hinomaru, the symbol of militarism, were dispatched to the Indian Ocean to "aid the US Army". This was the first time since the Second World War that Japan had involved itself in a military conflict.

The Japanese leader recently stirred up the renewed militarism further, claiming that the SDF should be called "the army".

In a nutshell, during the short period since taking office, he has taken the lead in the endeavour to fly the Japanese flag everywhere around the world, reliving the old dream of a "Greater East Asia Coprosperity Sphere", despite the fact that the economy was on its knees and everything showed signs of going wrong. It is not likely at all that he, engrossed in spurring on the violently running militaristic war cart, thought of his "promise" of economic reform.

The Japanese imperialists, who trampled upon the people of Asia during the last century, are now ready to do so again.

This reality proves that the promise of economic reform he made as he took office was a lie.

His lie is not confined to the Japanese people alone. On a recent trip abroad he said that Japan wanted to become an economic power, not a military power, claiming that it hadn't the slightest intention of invading other countries. He also said, apparently unaware of how others view Japan, that he had



The Japanese SDF in one of their many war exercises.

obtained the "understanding" of other Asian nations over the SDF's "supply aid" for the US Army's military operations. It requires the character of a crook to dare utter such lies to the international community.

He seemed to have lied in order to cover Japan's true intention of reviving militarism to prepare themselves for overseas aggression, but it's an absurd idea.

How could the world believe a country whose deeds do not match its words, a country that avoids compensating for its criminal past? Nobody is likely to believe that Japan will neither become a military power nor point guns at other countries.

He should realize that ours is an information age and his lies won't work in this enlightened world.

The inconsistency between his words and his actions makes the people of the world further heighten their vigilance against Japan.

Asian nations and others favour Japan's peaceful development into an economic power, but object to any attempt to become a military power.

The Japanese authorities would be well advised to stop deceiving and ridiculing people. They are currently digging their own grave, overwhelmed with a craze for a military power and overseas expansion.

Ri Hyon Sok

Developing Nations Intensify Regional Cooperation

Developing countries are running for intensified regional cooperation and solidarity.

Katmandu, the capital of Nepal, recently hosted a summit meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. The conference of heads of state and government in the region discussed a series of matters related to strengthening socio-economic cooperation among member nations and the provision of rights to women and children.

The ASEAN nations established a free-trade zone at the start of this year. Currently involving six nations, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, etc, it will soon admit Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar. The member nations have reduced tariff barriers on manufactured and agricultural products to less than five per cent, in compliance with decisions taken at previous meetings.

In the past, developing countries were faced with a number of difficulties in developing their national economies and building new societies due to the after-effects of colonial rule and the outmoded, unjust international economic order. In such a situation most such nations pursued the

policy of relying on capital and technology from developed countries to tide over their economic difficulties. This, however, resulted in an aggravated situations, gradually making them reconsider the policy. The catastrophic financial crisis that swept many countries at the end of the 20th century, and the ensuing social and economic turmoil, convinced them that importing foreign capital and technology is not an effective means of promoting economic development and the renewal of society.

One representative highlighted the new way of thinking when he said: "We should no longer pin our hopes on others doing our work. Nature has given us exactly the same brains as theirs, so we must not ask them for fish, but instead learn how to catch fish." They see the way to economic development and the elimination of poverty in the work to achieve unity and cooperation among neighbouring countries that have more similarities than they do differences.

An example of this kind of cooperation is the African Union, which was established in July last year in order to promote co-

prosperity by tapping the social, political and economic potential of the continent. At present, the African nations are working to integrate the regional economy. The Eastern African Community, the Eastern and Southern African Common Market, the Southern African Development Community and other similar regional organizations have already begun operation. Agreement has also been reached on the formation of a regional free trade zone. The nations of the Western African Economic Community agreed to introduce a single currency in 2004, aiming for the integration of the economies in the region.

Latin-American countries have formulated a general strategy intended to create a single market, which they believe would be helpful to regional development as a whole. They have also taken a number of practical steps to this end.

The developing countries' switchover from a policy of relying on the capital and technology of developed nations to one of building on the regional cooperation and solidarity is expected to bear fine fruit.

Kim Il Son



The gala evening of Pyongyang youth and students in commemoration of President Kim Il Sung's 90th birthday.



